

High-level panel to tackle unemployment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Upon directives from Prime Minister Mudar Badran Tuesday a higher committee for dealing with unemployment was formed Tuesday with Labour Minister Qasem Obaidat as its chairman. The committee groups deputies Abdullah Al Nsour, Fares Al Nabulsi and Abdullah Al Akaleh the presidents of the Jordanian Medical Association and the Jordanian Contractors Association, the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications secretary general, the Ministry of Education secretary general and the director general of the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company. In a statement to Al Rai and the Jordan Times, the committee chairman, Obaidat said Badran requested the committee to undertake a thorough study of the unemployment problem and to present its findings to him no later than three weeks from Tuesday, Sept. 18. Obaidat said the study will include a clear perception of the problem as it stands now and estimates for the future.

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Arab group urges food for Iraq

CAIRO (R) — An Arab human rights group called on the international community Tuesday to exclude food and medicine from a U.N.-ordered trade blockade against Iraq. "The continued war of starvation against the Iraqi people will not serve a useful purpose," the Arab Organisation for Human Rights (AOHR) said in a statement. It expressed "deep concern at the implications of the situation on human rights in the region, first and foremost starving the Iraqi people." The AOHR, a non-governmental body, said it hoped a U.N. Security Council resolution allowing food for Iraq would include Iraqis and Kuwaitis. "It is unreasonable that the international community does not give the issue of starving an entire nation the same attention it has rightly given to the fate of several thousand foreign nationals," the statement said. The statement appealed to the United Nations and world human rights groups to act to guarantee that all residents of Kuwait and Iraq get food and medicine.

King visits GHQ

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Tuesday visited the Armed Forces General Headquarters where he was received by Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, his assistants and the inspector general. King Hussein held a meeting with Abu Taleb and discussed with him issues of interest to the Armed Forces. The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

Hawatmeh meets Soviet ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Nayef Hawatmeh Tuesday met with Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Griadun Yuri Stepanovich and discussed with him the current situation in the region and the Gulf crisis. A spokesman for the DFLP said the two sides felt the need to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. The source added that they both stressed the need for American withdrawal from the Gulf, as a prelude to the search for an Arab solution to the problem and for solving the Palestine question within the framework of an international peace conference to be attended by all the region's states.

WFP studies stocking food

ROME (AP) — A U.N. agency has begun making plans to stock food for a possible flood of refugees should war break out in the Gulf, a spokeswoman said. Sites in Cyprus and Pakistan are under consideration by the World Food Programme (WFP), said Mercedes Sayagues of the Rome-based agency. She said agency experts were now in Cyprus looking into possible storage sites and would return to Rome later in the week. "It's contingency planning in case there is war in Iraq and we are faced with large numbers of refugees in Jordan and Iran," she said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press. In the past month, the WFP has announced emergency food aid of more than \$4 million for refugees fleeing Iraq and Kuwait. The aid, allocated to feed some 120,000 people, was approved in response to urgent appeals from Jordan.

Iraqi council member resigns

BAGHDAD (AP) — Saadoun Shaker, a member of Iraq's policy-making body, the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), has quit for health reasons, the official daily gazette, Al Waqa'i Al Iraqiah, reported Tuesday. It said Shaker, 51, had represented his resignation to the RCC which accepted it Monday. It did not elaborate on Shaker's illness or say if he also had quit his post as a member of the regional command of the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party. There had been reports that Shaker is suffering from terminal cancer. He was hospitalized in Iraq earlier this year, then flown abroad for further treatment, according to diplomats. His resignation leaves seven RCC members, including President Saddam Hussein.

Iraq said to bar Bangladeshi envoys from leaving

DHAKA (R) — Iraq has rejected Bangladesh's request to allow its diplomats who have fled to Baghdad from Kuwait to leave the country, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday. "Iraqi authorities have told in clear terms that our diplomats and other embassy staff from Kuwait will not be allowed to leave," spokesman Mustafizur Rahman told reporters. "Baghdad said they are being barred because we did not comply with Iraqi directives to close our Kuwait mission by Aug. 24," he added. "We consider this as a serious violation of the Vienna convention under which every signatory nation is obliged to give total freedom of passage and movement to all diplomats," Rahman said.

Badran warns against use of force on Iraq, backs linking Gulf crisis to Palestinian problem

'U.S. would be loser; oil fields will be devastated'
'1991 budget is government's major preoccupation'

By Rabab Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

PRIME MINISTER Mudar Badran said Tuesday he saw little chance of an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait if force was used against Iraq and that the United States would be the loser, in terms of objectives at least, if Washington chose a military option to resolve the Gulf crisis. In an interview with the Jordan Times and its sister Arabic daily Al Rai, the prime minister also called on the international community to support the Iraqi initiative of Aug. 12 which calls for linking the Gulf crisis to the Palestinian problem.

Mr. Badran expected that, in

the event of war breaking out in the Gulf, there will be a major devastation of oil fields in the Gulf, leaving the world with only half the reserves that are available now.

On the national economy, Mr. Badran stressed that his government's major preoccupation at the present is preparing the 1991 budget, given the economic hardships and uncertainty brought about by the Gulf crisis.

Following is the full text of the interview:
Q: Did the U.S.-Soviet summit in Helsinki succeed in halting the danger of war in the Gulf and making way for diplomatic action?

A: Jordan's position, which was presented to the United States during His Majesty King Hussein's visit to

Washington following the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, ruled out a military option. The American president's reply was that the United States will not be the first to start military confrontation in the Gulf, and this view was later confirmed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

President Bush and his secretary of state had both said that an embargo on Iraq was necessary if a peaceful solution is to be reached. This concept was relayed to the Soviet leadership through the Soviet ambassador who visited Amman just before the King's trip to North Africa and Europe. The same view was conveyed in London to the Soviet ambassador who had a meeting with King Hussein. Therefore, I believe that the Helsinki summit has ruled out the military option as a

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Mudar Badran

U.N. committee decides to help Jordan cope with impact of sanctions

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations Security Council sanctions committee has unanimously adopted a decision to assist Jordan in coping with its unique economic difficulties resulting from the Kingdom's compliance with U.N. sanctions against Iraq. The committee, whose decision is submitted to the Security Council, requested from the U.N. secretary general a "full assessment with suggestions for appropriate remedies to the problems resulting from measures it has undertaken to comply with Resolution 661 including especially the question of supply of petroleum and its derivatives." The decision was adopted Monday night.

Based on the assessment, the decision, appealed to all states "on an urgent basis" to provide Jordan with "immediate technical, financial and material assistance to mitigate the consequences of the difficulties faced by Jordan as a result of this crisis."

The decision also "requested the secretary general to appoint a special representative to coordinate assistance being given to Jordan by agencies in the United Nations system, humanitarian organizations and states which are prepared to participate in this effort, taking into account bilateral assistance being provided by states to Jordan."

The statement of the decision highlighted the U.N.'s concern at the "unique economic difficulties" confronting Jordan and expressed awareness of the "difficult

situation of the thousands of refugees and displaced persons having arrived in Jordan" since the Aug. 2 Iraqi takeover of Kuwait. It also expressed appreciation of the "adverse effects which their presence causes to Jordan's economy."

The decision also took a long-term outlook on the economic problems facing the Kingdom and recognized the need to deal "on a continuing basis with Jordan's unique economic difficulties."

It called on the secretary general to develop methods for the purpose of receiving information from states about the contribution which they have or are prepared to make to "alleviate the longer-term hardships confronting Jordan as a result of its application of economic sanctions against Iraq."

WEU wants air blockade on Iraq

PARIS (R) — The nine-nation Western European Union (WEU) said Tuesday it would ask the U.N. Security Council to extend the international trade embargo against Iraq to cover air traffic.

"The members of the WEU have decided to formally ask the Security Council to extend the embargo to air traffic. They want the council to act against countries which are violating the embargo," said French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

WEU defence and foreign ministers, meeting in Paris, also reviewed coordination between the group's 28 ships sent to the Gulf area after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

The nine said they would also ask the Security Council to extend the trade embargo to countries found to be breaching the current United Nations sanctions.

The council should "as soon as possible take extra measures for the complete and effective imposition of the embargo, including air traffic... this should be applied, if necessary, to countries which do not respect the embargo," the group said in a statement after a two-hour meeting.

Dumas said a joint military committee would meet Wednesday to implement new steps to extend coordination of ground and air forces from WEU countries operating in the Gulf.

Britain and France have decided to send 10,000 more troops between them to the Gulf over the past few days, following alleged incursions into Western diplomatic premises in Kuwait by Iraqi troops.

The British government notified the remaining Iraqi diplomats Tuesday that they may not move freely around the country, the Foreign Office said.

A day earlier, Britain ordered the expulsion of eight staff members at the embassy and 23 other Iraqi citizens.

The 41 staff members will be restricted to going no more than 25 miles from central London except by permission, said a Foreign Office spokesman.

The Iraqi charge d'affaires, Zuhair Ibrahim, was summoned to the Foreign Office Tuesday morning and given details of the restrictions.

Italy said Monday it was expelling 11 Iraqi embassy employees who worked in the military attaché's office.

The Foreign Ministry had announced the expulsions Sunday without saying how many people were affected.

There of the 11 were military officers, a ministry spokeswoman said Monday. They would be leaving in two groups, she said.

The 11 were given 10 days to leave the country. Other embassy staff were restricted to an area within 30 kilometres of downtown Rome.

Aga Khan: Priority is to ensure passage home for Asian evacuees

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the personal representative of the United Nations secretary general for humanitarian assistance related to the Gulf crisis, said Tuesday his priority was to ensure the repatriation of all Third World nationals who want to leave Kuwait and Iraq and to alleviate the human suffering in the process.

Aga Khan said that while the best method to evacuate those wishing to leave was direct flight, a contingency plan was also at hand.

"The worst case scenario for this contingency plan is the continuous flow of evacuees into Jordan and other neighbouring countries," Aga Khan said. That will mean an increase in setting up camps and transportation facilities," he told a press conference.

Aga Khan who arrived here Sunday, emphasized the immediate need to set up communications with Baghdad to get the necessary information about the number of Asian nationals who are stranded in Kuwait and Iraq, who are going to cross into its territories," he said.

Also addressing the press conference, held at Basman Palace, Ali Asiq, resident representative of the

United Nations in Jordan, said Jordan was the second most affected country in the Gulf crisis after Kuwait.

"Jordan's gross national product (GNP) went down 60 per cent to 70 per cent since the crisis, plus the great loss in remittance from Jordanians who worked in the Gulf," he said.

"There has also been a great loss in Jordan's resources and tourism industry, not to mention the great burden it had to carry in administering all the evacuees into Jordan," Asiq said.

Asked what was the United Nations' recourse if Iraq continued to reject United Nations Resolution 666 which provides for allowing food and medical supplies to enter Iraq under United Nations supervision, Aga Khan said, "I am dealing with the humanitarian aspect of this crisis. These people have shattered dreams. Some of them have become destitute overnight. Others are just trying to go back home and to reunite with their families."

Prince Aga Khan said he hoped to be able to go to Baghdad to help organize departures from Baghdad in order to lessen the pressure on Jordan.

Earlier, Aga Khan had referred to the direct flight of Western women and children on chartered Iraqi planes as "apparent discrimination."

"If we can do this for the West, why

not for Asians?" he asked during a visit to an evacuee camp in Azraq. He added that he would "absolutely" favour direct flight from Baghdad for all who wanted to leave.

Referring to the spinoffs of the problem, Aga Khan said: "Many of the Third World countries will be dramatically affected by these crisis. The return of such a big number of expatriates to their countries of origin will pose an economic restraint on their countries and their families."

Asked whether the United Nations will provide some kind of compensation to these countries, Asiq said that it was very difficult to discuss this at this point.

Aga Khan, who praised Jordan's efforts to provide all possible arrangements for the evacuees, said he did not believe Jordan would contemplate closing its borders with Iraq.

"There is no indication whatsoever of Jordan closing its borders. I hope and believe Jordan will not resort to such an action," he said. He also added that Iraqi and Kuwaiti ports will be used to help with the evacuation process.

Aga Khan will leave Jordan Wednesday after a three-day visit. Officials say he might visit Iran, Turkey and Syria next pending permission from Iraq, which has said it will not welcome a visit by the U.N. envoy.

Iran: Baghdad talks 'fruitful'

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Manuchehr Mottaki ended a three-day visit to Iraq Tuesday aimed at finalising arrangements for restoring normal ties, and an Iranian ambassador said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was likely to visit Tehran soon.

Mottaki, the first senior Iranian official to visit Baghdad since before the 1980-88 war, was quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) as saying his talks were "positive, fruitful, in a cordial atmosphere of mutual understanding."

The agency said Mottaki's last talks before leaving were with Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz on

improving relations between the two countries and the Gulf crisis.

While in Baghdad he also discussed the repatriation of prisoners of war (POWs), the demarcation of borders, and the reopening of embassies in each other's capitals, INA reported.

The two states agreed to re-establish diplomatic relations during a visit to Tehran by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz last week.

Saddam Hussein is likely to visit Tehran to cement the normalisation of ties between the two countries, Iran's ambassador to Pakistan Javad Mansoori said Tuesday.

"No time has been set but I can

tell you that such a visit will take place in the near future," he told a news conference.

Pressed for a date, the ambassador said he did not think Saddam would go for at least a month.

Mansoori told reporters bilateral relations would be the first priority of any Saddam visit, but said Iran had acted in recent weeks as a vehicle for "concerned parties" in the Gulf crisis to exchange views. He did not elaborate.

Iraq has reaffirmed it will abide by U.N. sanctions against Iraq. Mansoori strongly criticised the U.S. and European deployment of force in the Gulf region.

King, Hassan II and Benjedid to meet in Morocco today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein will leave Amman for Morocco today where he will participate in a tripartite summit with King Hassan II of Morocco and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid aimed at working out a new Arab initiative to contain the Gulf crisis.

The three leaders' meeting aims to discuss and formulate a united Arab initiative which will be followed by concerted

efforts to include as many Arab leaders as possible before bringing the initiative to the concerned parties, informed sources said.

One source described the move as an "extension of His Majesty's efforts which started with a tour of Arab and European countries in the weeks following the Aug. 2 Iraqi takeover of Kuwait."

"The King is continuing his efforts to avoid the risk of military confrontation in the region through an Arab solution or an Arab-international

solution which would reduce the chances of war at this extremely sensitive stage and beyond," the source explained.

Morocco was one of the 12 Arab countries that condemned Iraq in the Aug. 10 Arab summit in Cairo and agreed to send troops to Saudi Arabia. Algeria abstained on that resolution. Morocco has since undertaken diplomatic efforts to mend fences among Arab countries and is reported to be working on a new initiative to solve the Gulf crisis.

Arafat arrives, saying Iraq ready for talks with U.N., Fahd PLO leader says dismissal of U.S. air force chief exposes American plans

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat arrived here Tuesday saying that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was prepared to negotiate a political solution to the Gulf crisis with the United Nations secretary-general or directly with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader also asserted that the sacking of the American air force chief of staff had shown that the U.S. military build-up in Saudi Arabia was aimed at killing Iraqis rather than defending Saudi Arabia (see box).

Arafat, who met with Saddam early Tuesday, was quoted as saying in an interview with the American Hearst group of newspapers that he was "optimistic we can achieve a political solution if there is a positive signal" of willingness by the U.S., the U.N. or Saudi Arabia to negotiate an end to the crisis.

"If there is the will on the American side to find a solution, I am sure there is a way and I am not saying this in vain or in a

vacuum. I am speaking from a strong concrete position after my talks here," Arafat said in the interview, conducted by Hearst editor John P. Wallach in Baghdad shortly after the Palestinian leader's meeting with the Iraqi president. A copy of the Hearst interview was made available to the Jordan Times Tuesday.

Wallach quoted Arafat as saying that Saddam understands "there has to be with an international umbrella" and that the only way to defuse the growing tension is for U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and King Fahd to be brought into negotiations.

King Fahd "is the main partner. He is the main partner required for a solution," Arafat said. Asked if Saddam was willing to meet with him, the PLO leader said: "If an effort is made to arrange it, yes."

He said that Saddam had repeated, on an almost daily basis, his public pledge that Iraq has, and never had any intention of invading Saudi Arabia because King Fahd had specifically requested the Iraqi leader to provide these constant assurances.

Asked how he knew that Sad-

dam was willing to host a visit to Baghdad by the U.N. Secretary-General and desire for him to play a mediating role, Arafat said: "I have understood that he (Saddam) is willing. Don't press me more."

"Truly, he (Saddam) is looking to find a comprehensive agenda, an open agenda, including Kuwait, and other Arab issues," Arafat said.

He said that Iraq remains prepared to discuss withdrawing its troops from Kuwait and restoring a legitimate Kuwaiti government to power, perhaps even headed by a member of the previous royal family, the Al Sabahs, so long as it is not the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

The Iraqi leader also is "flexible" on the issue of Westerners held in Iraq and is prepared to release all of the foreigners who have been detained as guests of the Iraqi government once the United States provides assurances to the U.N. that it will not attack.

He suggested the United Nations play the key role in paving

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Iraq says oil price could go up to \$50

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi said Tuesday the economy siege of Iraq would drive oil prices to \$50 a barrel despite sharply increased production by Arab allies of the United States.

In his first interview with a Western correspondent since Iraq seized Kuwait after a row over oil prices and production levels, Chalabi told Reuters:

"Prices will continue to go up and up and up because there is no way of replacing Iraqi oil in the long run."

Prices could rise to \$40, \$50 a barrel. Just wait and see," he said.

The U.N. Security Council imposed a global trade ban on Iraq Aug. 6, taking more than four

million barrels a day of Iraqi and Kuwaiti crude out of the world oil market and pushing prices up sharply.

The price of the world benchmark crude, North Sea Brent blend, edged up to a nine-year high of \$33.90 a barrel in London Tuesday after closing at \$33 Monday — more than 60 per cent above pre-invasion levels of around \$20.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have raised output dramatically to make up for most of the shortfall, but Chalabi said it was unlikely they could sustain maximum capacity for more than two or three months.

"Production at such levels

Habash: No Gulf peace without Palestine solution

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A settlement of the seven-week-old Gulf crisis can only be realised if it leads to a solution of the Palestinian issue, Dr. George Habash, who heads the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), told a press conference Tuesday.

Habash said that his meeting with His Majesty King Hussein Monday had been fruitful and had taken place in a warm and cordial atmosphere.

Habash, who is on his first visit to Jordan in 20 years and met with King Hussein Monday as part of a delegation representing participants at a three-day pan-Arab conference, said that a new era of cooperation between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was in the making as a result of common dangers threatening both.

Habash said that the democratisation of Jordan as well as the political decision taken by King Hussein in the summer of 1988 to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank had allowed for his visit, which he began earlier this week.

"We, the Palestinian and Jordanian people, face two common dangers," he told reporters. "There are two common dangers which threaten our existence. One is the policy of transfer and the other is the concept of an alternative homeland for the Palestinians on Jordanian territory."

On Jordan-PLO relations, Habash said, are based not "on emotions or for transitory reasons but on grounds of common concern."

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Assad to visit Iran next week

NICOSIA (AP) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad will pay his first-ever visit to Tehran next week to discuss the Gulf crisis and Western hostages in Lebanon with Iranian leaders, diplomats said Tuesday.

Official announcements in Tehran and Damascus said only that Assad will fly to Iran "next week" at the invitation of Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said: "Observers attach special significance to President Assad's visit in the wake of the crisis in the Persian Gulf."

But it did not elaborate on the topics to be discussed or mention the length of the visit.

Diplomats in Damascus, insist-

ing on anonymity, told the Associated Press a number of sensitive issues were expected to be on the Assad's agenda — the Gulf crisis, the plight of Western hostages in Lebanon and Iran's poor relations with Egypt and Saudi Arabia with whom Damascus is allied in the confrontation against Iraq.

The visit was expected to boost Assad's drive to project himself as a dependable ally of the West and clean up his country's image after years of isolation caused its implication in "terrorist" attacks.

The trip follows talks in Damascus last week between Assad and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Two million Soviet Jews could reach Israel in 6 years

TEL AVIV (AP) — Up to two million Soviet immigrants could arrive in Israel by the end of 1995 and the government will need hundreds of millions of dollars in extra aid from world Jewry to absorb them, a top official said Monday.

The projection by Simcha Diniz, head of the quasi-governmental Jewish Agency, would mean an increase of nearly 45 per cent in Israel's current population of 4.5 million.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Monday welcomed a plane load of Soviet immigrants, praising the influx as a boost to the strength of the Jewish state.

"These immigrants are more important than weapons," Shamir told reporters at the Ben-Gurion international airport near Tel Aviv.

Diniz's estimate was the highest yet for the massive influx of Soviet Jews that started last year. The flow of immigrants has consistently exceeded expectations and outrun plans for housing and employing the new arrivals.

"It is a most revolutionary thing," Diniz said at a news conference in his office. "I know of no other society going through such a massive absorption process."

Earlier this month, Shamir said a million Soviets were expected within the decade.

Diniz suggested Shamir gave a conservative estimate out of concern the flow could be stemmed by the Gulf crisis and pressures from Arab countries on the Soviets to halt the immigration.

"All these fears of interference with immigration have proven unfounded. It didn't happen, with each passing month we are seeing an increase," Diniz said.

Diniz, a former ambassador to Washington, said Israel expected the total of Soviet newcomers to reach one million by the end of 1992.

He said this alone meant Israel's population would grow by 25 per cent, and noted: "It is like adding about 60 million people to the U.S. population."

"We have a potential of another million over six years," Diniz said. He added that the Jewish Agency was already processing applications beyond the one million mark.

The Jewish Agency currently oversees immigration and Jewish fund-raising abroad.

The pace of immigration has already risen dramatically in the last few months, Diniz noted. This month's total through Sept. 16 was 9,864 Soviets, which is a rate of 700 to 1,000 a day, said Diniz. In January the immigrants were arriving at a rate of about 100 daily.

Diniz said the pressure to handle the arrivals was so great the government was also considering a special effort to receive 3,500 Soviet immigrants over Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year holiday from Wednesday through Saturday. This was despite rabbi's complaints against allowing travel on holy days.

Since Jan. 1, 92,562 total of Soviets have been flown in, mostly from East European capitals and between 180,000 and 200,000 are expected by the year's end, Diniz said.

Most Soviet Jews say they are fleeing because of increasing evidence of anti-Semitism and economic instability in the Soviet Union. The flow of Jews to Israel has been spurred more liberal Soviet exit policies and tighter U.S. immigration rules.

Diniz said Israel had to take "drastic, comprehensive steps" to absorb the newcomers in an economy already troubled by double-digit inflation and a recession.

Officials have estimated that at least \$30 billion would be needed to take in one million immigrants. Israel has so far budgeted only

about \$2.3 billion over the next three years, and world Jewry has pledged another 740 million.

Diniz indicated Jewish leaders abroad were already hiking their contributions and that a record of \$650 million was received this year, but that more would be needed.

"We have to make it so there will be no Jewish home that is not part of helping in this exodus," Diniz said.

Israel is already hard put to handle the immigrants. State-owned television reported last week that only 8,000 of about 100,000 newcomers this year had found jobs. Unemployment excluding the immigrants has hit 10 per cent, a high figure for Israel.

Contractors have been slow to build housing. Housing Minister Ariel Sharon told the cabinet Sunday that construction was under way for only 5,000 of 45,000 housing units approved earlier this year, the Yediot Achronot daily said.

German drive

The leader of Germany's Jewish community said Tuesday he will fight for greater immigration possibilities for Soviet Jews to the United States.

The West German government announced earlier this month that West German consulates in the Soviet Union would no longer accept applications from Soviet Jews to emigrate.

West Germany has been trying to lessen huge burdens placed by new immigrants from many countries on Germany's housing and social services.

Heinz Galinski, the head of the Jewish community's central council, told a news conference he had not been informed of the new restrictive measures in advance. "We were fully surprised," Galinski said.

Dugan said publicly what others say in private

DHAHRAN (AP) — Much of what U.S. air force General Michael J. Dugan said that got him fired is indeed part of U.S. contingency plans for war with Iraq. But Dugan was the only military leader who discussed the plans publicly in such detail.

The sheer numbers of the Iraqi military make air power vital for the United States to "defend" Saudi Arabia and to launch any offensive attack, U.S. military leaders have made clear in recent weeks.

Interviews with U.S. commanders, Pentagon deployment announcements and other information released publicly have indicated that U.S. contingencies include massive air strikes against

Iraqi military and political targets.

U.S. commanders have said privately that the politics of the Middle East made it preferable that any attack on Iraq avoid damage to religious and cultural monuments, so that the United States would not destroy any chances of diplomatic relations with any Iraqi government after Saddam Hussein's.

Until Dugan gave detailed interviews about what he said were air force plans if President George Bush ordered an offensive action, any detailed picture of contingencies for bombing Iraq was available only by piecing together information from a number of sources.

Dugan was fired Monday as commander of the air force by Defence secretary Dick Cheney, who said Dugan was relieved for discussing classified "operational matters" in great detail.

Dugan, in interviews with the Los Angeles Times and the Washington Post, said air force contingencies included bombing places frequented by Saddam Hussein and his inner circle, as well as military and economic targets.

From the early stages of the deployment the United States had announced it was sending massive air power to the region. Some commanders have been willing to discuss the plans for

massive air strikes, although none in the detail provided by Dugan.

The publicly announced deployments to the region included F-111 bombers, now stationed in Turkey and Saudi Arabia, the F-117 stealth fighter-bomber and long-range B-52 bombers. Aircraft carriers in the Red Sea and just outside the Gulf carry A-6 bombers.

A squadron commander aboard one carrier said two weeks ago his unit had been briefed on possible bombing runs against Iraqi targets.

The United States also sent several AWACS planes to help Saudi AWACS maintain 24-hour patrols. A U.S. air force officer

said the large deployment guaranteed there would be enough AWACS activity in the Middle East and to direct offensive air activities if ordered to do so.

In public statements, military leaders including Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin L. Powell and army Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia, have said air power is the only way the U.S.-led force could defeat Iraq's million-man army without overwhelming casualties and extended fighting. The Iraqi army's strength in the Iran-Iraq war was holding defensive positions.



Chadli Benjedid

Benjedid favours electoral revision

ALGIERS (R) — President Chadli Benjedid has agreed with opposition political parties on the need to revise Algeria's electoral law before the first free parliamentary elections set for next year.

The Algerian news agency APS said Benjedid made the remark to opposition political leaders he began receiving Monday for talks designed to ensure the elections take place smoothly.

"The president clearly indicated to his guests that the electoral law requires revision so the voting system reflects the will of citizens," he was quoted as saying.

Several opposition parties and women's groups have demanded changes in the voting system, now a combination of winner-take-all and proportional representation of one round.

They want to suppress or limit proxy voting, which they say helped the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) sweep local elections last June, and introduce a second round that would allow smaller parties to make alliances.

Under current proxy voting rules husbands can automatically vote for their wives and vice versa.

Algeria has legalised 27 opposition parties alongside the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) since embracing multi-party democracy last year.

Benjedid, also FLN president, met the party's Secretary General Abdul Hamid Mehri Sunday and the presidents of the movement for democracy in Algeria of former President Ahmed Ben Bella and the Social Democratic Party Monday.

Ben Bella, ousted in a coup in 1965, has said he plans to return home on Sept. 27. He has been living in exile in Switzerland for eight years.

The government has delegated its interior minister to discuss electoral reform with the opposition and to study the issue of financial aid to political parties participating in the poll set for the first quarter of next year.

Man given life-term in murder of Jordanian family

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A judge sentenced a southern California man to life in prison with no chance of parole for murdering his wife and four members of her Jordanian family.

Superior Court Judge Raymond Edwards followed a jury's recommendation in imposing the term on Tawfik Naddi, 49, of nearby El Cajon for the June 1, 1985, shootings of the victims as they slept at Naddi's home.

Edwards also sentenced Naddi to five consecutive terms of 27 years to life as a precaution requested by Deputy District Attorney Bob Boles in case an appellate court overturns the jury's special circumstances findings that Naddi committed multiple murders.

Naddi, a Jordanian-born

Lebanese citizen, was convicted in 1988 of murdering his wife, Aida, 26, her father, Habib Sabagh, 73; her mother, Lilian Sabagh, 58; her brother, Michael Sabagh, 38, and her cousin, Osama Mashini, 38.

The Sabaghs, who were visiting the Naddis, were a prominent Jordanian family and Osama Mashini was a popular comedian there. Each victim was shot in the head.

Naddi testified that he shot his relatives because his wife had told him that she had been involved for years in an incestuous relationship with her father, who allegedly wanted to take Naddi's two children back to Jordan.

He was convicted of five first-degree murders in June 1988. That jury deadlocked 11-1 in the

trial's sanity phase, however, with the majority finding that Naddi was sane when he shot the victims.

Naddi's next two sanity proceedings ended in mistrials before the fourth jury recommended two months ago that he be sentenced to life in prison instead of being executed for the murders.

When that verdict was returned, Naddi responded by striking one of his attorneys, Beverly Barrett, with his fist in front of the jury. Four deputy marshals handcuffed Naddi and took him out of the courtroom, but jurors said later that the incident had no bearing on their sanity deliberations.

Edwards acknowledged Naddi's apparent mental problems and granted a request by Barrett

and co-counsel Hodge Crabtree that state prison officials be asked to provide psychological and psychiatric treatment for Naddi.

But the judge rejected defense arguments that the five sentence be made concurrent instead of consecutive.

"He did stop and reload the weapon during the shootings," Edwards said. "In fact, he forgot where the bullets were and had to take the time to find them and then reload the gun."

Naddi married his current wife, Carol Moore, last December. She formerly worked as a private investigator for one of his defence teams and is caring for his children.

Mistrials were declared in Naddi's second and third sanity trials in 1989 and last February.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Islamic ministers to meet in New York

JEDDAH (AP) — Foreign Ministers of the 45-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) will meet in New York on Oct. 1 to discuss the Gulf crisis, an OIC official said Tuesday. "The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait will be the top item on the agenda of the annual coordinating meeting of the Islamic foreign ministers," he said from the OIC headquarters in Jeddah. The meeting will be held at the headquarters of the United Nations on the sidelines of the 45th session of the U.N. General Assembly. OIC foreign ministers held their regular annual 19th conference in Cairo early August, and denounced Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. They expressed support for Kuwait's deposed government under the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, current chairman of the OIC. OIC Secretary-General Hamid Al Ghabid issued a statement on the day of the invasion calling for an immediate withdrawal of Iraqi forces to the internationally recognised borders. According to the OIC official, who is not named according to the OIC rules, the ministers will discuss other issues of common concern including the Palestinian problem, Afghanistan, South Africa and the ailing economies of Third World countries.

German anti-chemical tanks to Gulf

BONN (R) — American troops trained by West Germany in handling special tanks for detecting poison gas will soon depart for the Gulf. U.S. military officials said Tuesday. The soldiers recently completed a three-week crash course at an atomic, biological and chemical (ABC) protection school in Southofen in southern West Germany. They were trained in how to operate West German Fuchs tanks which can reveal the use of chemical weapons and which Bonn is lending to the United States for the Gulf effort. The U.S. European command in Stuttgart said elements of the U.S. Army Europe's seventh and fifth corps would soon be flown to Saudi Arabia from West Germany with 10 Fuchs tanks. Spokesmen refused to say how many troops would go but news reports say about 100 U.S. soldiers underwent the Southofen course.

Egypt accuses Iraq of recruiting Egyptians

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's labour union accused Iraq Tuesday of forcing Egyptian workers to join its army. "We have decided to present a complaint to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) concerning this matter," a union official said. Union chief Ahmad Al Amawi called on some 1.5 million Egyptian labourers in Iraq to return home immediately. President Hosni Mubarak has said if all the Egyptians left "Iraq will stop." About 270,000 Egyptians, many penniless, have returned home since Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. Officials say thousands return every day by air and sea.

Japan sends medical team to Gulf

TOKYO (R) — Japan sent 17 doctors and nurses to Saudi Arabia Tuesday, the first Japanese personnel to join the U.S. drive against Iraq. "We are happy we are able to donate in this visible manner," Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe said. He told a news conference Japanese medical teams were unlikely to help troops facing Iraqi forces on the Saudi-Kuwait border. "We hope to be flexible but our fundamental policy now is that follow-up teams would not be expected to go to the front," he said. The first team would survey medical facilities in towns and cities for one to three months and collect data to attract more volunteers, he added.

UAE urges women to join armed forces

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has decided to open its army to women. A statement issued by the armed force in local papers on Monday urged women to volunteer for military training. "In view of the current situation in our region, the national duty is calling on you to join the armed forces," it said. It cited the role of women in old Islamic wars which included fighting, providing first aid and encouraging men. Women in many Islamic countries are excluded from the armed forces, or at least from combat duty. About 25,000 men in the UAE took part in military training courses after the invasion.

Japanese delegation in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — A delegation of Japanese lawmakers headed by a popular wrestler-turned-politician arrived in Baghdad Tuesday for talks with Iraqi officials on the release of Japanese men held in Iraq, diplomatic sources said. They gave no details about the agenda of the delegation led by Antonio Inoki, a member of the Upper House. Japanese press reports said Inoki intended to meet Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and was carrying letters from several Japanese cabinet ministers. The diplomatic sources in Baghdad said about 140 Japanese men were being held at military or industrial sites to act as deterrents against possible attack on Iraq by U.S.-dominated forces in the Gulf. They said there were another 130 Japanese nationals in Iraq and about 20 in Kuwait.

Omani minister in Tehran

NICOSIA (R) — Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs Youssef Alawi Abdullah arrived in Tehran Tuesday for talks on the Gulf crisis, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. It said Alawi would deliver a message to Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani from Oman's Sultan Qaboos Ben Said during his two-day stay in Tehran.

Yemen rejects curbs on food, medicines to Iraq

KHARTOUM (AP) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh says his country rejects restrictions on food and medicine supplies to Iraq as part of an international embargo.

He said in an interview with two government-owned newspapers published Tuesday that he still was trying to help reach a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis.

"We are against a food and drug embargo on Iraq," Saleh told Al Sudan Al Hadith and Al Inqaz Al Watany newspapers.

He said the tightening of the anti-Iraq economic embargo, clamped by the U.N. Security Council was "a declaration of war" against Iraq.

Saleh said that the international campaign against Iraq was meant to divert attention from the real conflict in the region which he said was the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He also said that U.S. and other Western forces had fulfilled their aim of "being in and controlling" the oil-rich Gulf region. This referred to their military deployment in and around Saudi Arabia.

Saleh denied reports that his country and other Arab states supporting Iraq had received money for their backing of Iraq.

Bush move to reward Egypt hits problems

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush's urgent request for \$1.9 billion to help pay for the U.S. military deployment in the Middle East is running into trouble on Capitol Hill among lawmakers of both parties.

The biggest obstacle is a White House plan to forgive \$7.1 billion in debts Egypt owes the United States for past military equipment purchases.

But lawmakers also are objecting to a proposal to set up a "national defence gift fund" to receive money from allies that then could be spent by the Pentagon, apparently without any control by Congress.

Congressman William Broomfield, the senior Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, dealt the package a blow Monday when he announced his opposition to cancelling Egypt's debt.

The Michigan lawmaker said the debt forgiveness would prompt a wave of requests from countries that see it as a way to get more foreign aid as budget negotiators seek to cut the deficit.

"I can't imagine a worse time for the administration to be recommending forgiveness on this debt," he said in an interview. Asked to assess the proposal's prospects on the House floor, he said: "I would say it would go down the tubes" in its present form.

Israel, Poland and other countries already are lining up for similar treatment, Broomfield

said. In a statement on the House floor, he added: "The simple fact is that America can't afford outright cancellation of Egypt's debt."

Broomfield's opposition came on the heels of scepticism by the Democratic chairman of the House and Senate appropriations subcommittees that must approve the package — Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont and Rep. David Obey of Wisconsin.

Other influential lawmakers, including Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn, have expressed wariness about seeking contributions from other countries to offset the cost of the Gulf military mobilisation.

They worry that the situation smacks of the mechanism used during the Iran-contra affair to insulate executive branch decisions and actions from congressional oversight.

"Ollie North would have absolutely loved it," Obey said of the administration's proposal to set up a new fund at the Pentagon out of Congress' reach.

Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger sought last week to persuade key lawmakers that Egypt's support in the Gulf was crucial to U.S. success, according to participants in the discussions.

Egypt has led the way in providing Arab troops to the deployment in Saudi Arabia and has lobbied other Arab states to isolate Iraq. Eagleburger pointed out.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programme
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Cairo news message
18:30 Local programme
20:00 Arabic series
20:30 News in Arabic
21:00 Documentary: "Wild South Under Ice"
22:00 News in English
22:30 Never Come Back

PROGRAMME TWO

18:05 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Classical Music
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
21:10 Documentary: "Wild South Under Ice"
22:00 News in English
22:30 Never Come Back

PRAYER TIMES

04:54 Fajr
06:17 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:29 Dhuhr
15:59 'Asr
18:42 Maghrib
20:00 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetliah, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 818117, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Khalil Al Jabali 740740
Dr. Hani Haddadin 777751
Dr. Jamil Marqad 776046
Dr. Saeed Abu Hatab 697846
Firas Pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 776536
Al Aqsa pharmacy 637555
Nasroukh pharmacy 626730
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Smeisani pharmacy 637660
JERD:
Dr. Mazen Abu Baker (—)
Al Sharara pharmacy (985)28

MIN-MAX TEMP.

Amman 15 / 27
Aqaba 22 / 33
Deserts 15 / 31
Jordan Valley 20 / 34

YESTERDAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES:

Amman 37 per cent, Aqaba 33 per cent.

ZARQA:

Dr. Abdul Karim Khashashneh (—)
Khalifa Hospital 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891223
Blood Bank 775121
Traffic Police 543402
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Prox Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 661912
Information Information 121
(directory assistance)
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 63101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 775111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

ELECTRIC POWER

Company 630381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Aila Inst. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381332
Khalifa Maternity, J. Amn. 646216
Al-Khalifa Maternity, J. Amn. 646216
Jabal Amman Maternity 646262
Mathias, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsuni 644714
Shamsuni Hospital 644714
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musabir Hospital 667229
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajir 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army, Marka 89761115
Queen Aila Hospital 66224050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)803223
Zarga National Hospital (09)97071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)80732
JERD:
Princess Beama Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272225
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)52200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
18:00 Damascus (RJ)
18:00 Jeddah (RJ)
18:30 Larnaca (RJ)
18:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
18:50 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
18:50 Cairo (RJ)
18:50 London (RJ)
19:30 Madrid (RJ)
19:30 Paris (RJ)
19:30 Rome (RJ)
19:30 Zurich (RJ)
19:30 Athens (RJ)
19:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
19:30 Geneva (RJ)
19:30 Rome (RJ)
19:30 Athens (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

18:00 Cairo (RJ)
18:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
18:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
18:45 London (RJ)
18:50 Agade (RJ)
18:50 Riyadh (RJ)
19:15 New Delhi (RJ)
19:30 Cairo (RJ)
19:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
19:30 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
19:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
19:30 Cairo (RJ)
19:30 London (RJ)
19:30 Madrid (RJ)
19:30 Paris (RJ)
19:30 Rome (RJ)
19:30 Zurich (RJ)
19:30 Athens (RJ)
19:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
19:30 Geneva (RJ)
19:30 Rome (RJ)
19:30 Athens (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Relief efforts get Red Cross pledge

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegates representing the Danish and Swedish Red Cross societies Tuesday toured Al Azraq refugee camps set up by the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and pledged aid to contribute to Jordan's efforts to serve the foreign nationals stranded in the Kingdom.

Erik Hjelmar from the Danish Red Cross Society, who visited the evacuees camps in the company of JNRCS officials, inspected services being offered to the displaced people and said that the Danish Red Cross was studying a plan aimed at repatriating the evacuees and providing basic services to them.

Hjelmar said he had familiarised himself with the relief operations and had already made requests from his country for further assistance to be channelled through the JNRCS.

Once he goes back to Copenhagen, he said he would submit a full report on the evacuees' situation and the "well-organised" relief operations for the evacuees conducted through the JNRCS.

Representative of the Swedish Red Cross, Anders Nordlof, also visited Al Azraq camps and studied the relief operations. He

voiced appreciation to the JNRCS for its relentless efforts to provide assistance to the evacuees and said that the Swedish Red Cross Society, which has been providing assistance through the ICRC, is prepared to offer additional aid to help Jordan cope with this humanitarian task.

In the meantime the JNRCS in Amman announced that Monday it had received 2,520 new evacuees at the two camps in Azraq but, it had to refer 83 of them to JNRCS's field hospitals as they were found suffering from different illnesses.

JNRCS has been providing medical treatment to the evacuees in addition to similar services offered by the Health Ministry, which has been dispatching medical teams on regular basis to the camps.

Health Minister Mohammad Al Zaben assured the public Monday that there were no cholera cases among the evacuees. "Three expatriates were discovered to be carriers of the cholera virus, but have now been repatriated," the minister said in a statement to Al Ra'i daily Tuesday.

Zaben said the health situation at Ruweisah and other camps was excellent despite the hardships facing the evacuees.

Race for House speakership starts

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Parliamentary circles Tuesday reported a flurry of behind-the-scenes activity in preparation for the nomination of representatives of various blocs or independent deputies to run for the prestigious post of speaker of the Lower House of Parliament.

The Parliament members, who were elected in a general election last November, chose Suleiman Arar as speaker for the ordinary session which ended on March 27, and in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution they have to elect a speaker for the coming ordinary session which is due to open by Oct. 1 with a speech from the throne by His Majesty King Hussein.

The Jordan Times has learnt that Arar would be seeking a second term and that at least one independent, Laith Shbeilat and Atef Betoush from the independent Islamic Bloc have already expressed their desire to run for the post.

Any Parliament deputy has the right to nominate himself for the post of the House speaker whether independently or on behalf of a parliamentary bloc, since

all deputies have equal rights, according to independent Deputy Thouqan Hindawi.

He said that the post of speaker was of importance and carried a serious responsibility.

Laith Shbeilat said that he was "seriously thinking of running for the post once the ordinary session had been opened." But he said he wanted to see the government running the affairs of the country in harmony with the House's wishes and not the other way round. "To achieve this objective much depends on the House speaker and the skill with which he can manage the sessions," Shbeilat added.

"The present crisis, which Jordan and the whole region are going through, requires Arab Islamic mobilisation on the part of the country's institutions, particularly Parliament, which should live up to expectations," Shbeilat added. He said he felt he was eligible for the post.

Another deputy, Abdul Latif Arabiyat, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that it was not important who would be elected House speaker, but what was really important was the achievement of further gains for the democratisation process in Jordan. "We look at the

House as an important institution with independent powers for enacting legislations and for playing an active role in the country," Arabiyat said.

Deputy Fakhri Kaware, from the Democratic Bloc, said that his group was definitely nominating a candidate for the post. He told Petra that his bloc wanted the "House speaker to take the side of the Parliament and not to favour the government, and to be keen on projecting the deputies' views and not to be a staunch supporter of the government's views."

Dr. Abdullah Ensour, who leads the National Bloc, said in a statement that a meeting of his group would be held at his residence Wednesday to decide on the question of nominations. Ensour's bloc comprises 22 deputies.

According to Deputy Atef Betoush, members of his independent Islamic Bloc are currently holding consultations with the other blocs to win support for his own nomination.

Deputy Issa Reimouni, from the National Bloc, said that a meeting of his group will be held Wednesday to prepare for the coming nominations.

Crown Prince urges formation of emergency peace task force

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday said it was high time to prepare an emergency team capable of dealing with any future disasters.

Prince Hassan, who was speaking during a tour of Azraq evacuee camps, expressed hope that a Jordanian peace task force would be formed to handle any future emergency.

The Crown Prince, who was accompanied by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the personal representative of the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, expressed appreciation for all international and United Nations organisations for

their response to his appeal to help the evacuees.

"The presence of the U.N. secretary general representative here reflects the U.N. interest in finding a solution to the evacuees' problem and helping repatriate the largest numbers of them," Prince Hassan said.

Prince Hassan also lauded the Jordanian volunteers for their great efforts in helping evacuees stranded in Jordan, saying that their unique work "reflects the true Jordanian morals and good-will spirit."

"It is also indicative of self-denial, which is essential in such cases," the Prince said.

The Crown Prince called for

more coordination among the voluntary sectors in Jordan.

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan praised the Jordanian people's efforts to alleviate the suffering of the evacuees and voiced his happiness for being in Jordan to assist in repatriating evacuees.

Aga Khan pointed out to the difficult social conditions of the evacuees who are waiting to go back home.

Princess Katherine, wife of Prince Aga Khan who accompanied him on the visit, expressed satisfaction with the good organisation of Azraq camps and the levels of services rendered to evacuees.

Norwegian minister holds talks on Gulf crisis

Norway donates \$1m to welfare committee

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Knutt Vollebaek, who arrived in Jordan on Monday, met with Secretary General of the Interior Ministry Salameh Hamad to discuss the recent Gulf crisis and Jordan's efforts in reaching a just and peaceful solution to the problem. During the meeting the deputy foreign minister handed Hamad a donation of \$1 million to the Jordanian Welfare Committee headed by Hamad.

This donation will bring the total of Norwegian donations to \$22 million, channelled through the Red Cross, church aid, Norwegian organisations helping with the evacuees.

The deputy foreign minister met with Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry Muatsem Bilbeisi, to discuss the recent political situation. "The purpose of my visit is to assess the evacuees problem and to discuss the situation in Jordan, and the possibilities of

reaching a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis," Vollebaek told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

The Norwegian deputy foreign minister said that his government strongly condemned Iraq's annexation of Kuwait. "We support all of the United Nations resolutions, and we want it to play a bigger role in solving this crisis to respond to the challenges posed by the new world order," Vollebaek said.

Asked whether his country was put under pressure by the United States to increase its military buildup in the Gulf, Vollebaek said that the Americans had stressed on the need to "share the burden."

"Norway has sent a coast guard ship to the Gulf, and we will also be involved in paying for supplies for American ships in the Gulf," he added.

Vollebaek also said his government supported United Nations Resolution 666. The resolution allows humanitarian food aid to go into Iraq and

Kuwait, but only when the United Nations decides when this circumstance occurs.

After meeting with Jordanian officials Tuesday, Vollebaek visited Azraq II evacuee camp. "I was very impressed with the set up both in the Ministry of Interior and in the camp itself," Vollebaek said. He added that his country would be willing to extend economic aid to Jordan to compensate it for the problems that arose from the influx of evacuees into its territories in the past several weeks. "Our government will extend some help to Turkey and Egypt who have also suffered in the recent crisis," Vollebaek said.

"We are also thinking of supporting United Nations Petrol Fund, but nothing is concrete yet," Vollebaek said.

Vollebaek will meet with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, Wednesday to discuss the recent situation and the effort His Majesty King Hussein is making in trying to solve the crisis peacefully.

Brazil thanks Jordan for assisting evacuees

AMMAN (Petra) — Brazilian Ambassador to Jordan Felix De Faria Tuesday voiced his country's gratitude to the Jordanian government for the assistance accorded to Brazilian evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait.

De Faria voiced his thanks at a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masadeh and said his government hoped that further assistance would be given to other Brazilian citizens who might be leaving via Jordan.

A statement from the Public Security Department (PSD) said Tuesday that a total of 11,515 persons crossed into Jordan Monday, including 2,020 Jordanians. Nearly 6,000 came through the Ruweisah border post and the rest through other crossing points, the PSD said in a statement.

It said that a total of 18,700 persons, including 6,804 non-Arab foreigners, left the country Monday.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) reported that the total number of arrivals in Jordan by air from Iraq Sunday was 8,830 and that they had come aboard 36 unscheduled flights.

Patriarch: Armenians share the Arab Nation's concern for a just peace

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Armenians in the Middle East are very much a part of the region's political equation and share the concerns of the Arab Nation for a just and equitable peace, which guarantees the rights of all the people, including the Palestinian rights in the region, according to the Armenian Patriarch of Jordan and the Holy Land.

Archbishop Torcom Manougian, in a statement marking the end of a visit to Jordan during which he presented his credentials to King Hussein as patriarch, called on the Armenians in the Middle East to adhere to "their traditions, their own history and their own heritage."

The patriarch, who held talks with the King and other Jordanian officials, described his meetings as "very cordial."

"It was gratifying, especially for me, to have the opportunity to meet with His Majesty King Hussein," he said. "I know how busy his schedule was, but being my first visit he gave me his letter of acknowledgement recognising the election of the patriarch in Jerusalem as the patriarch of Jordan also, granting him all the

privileges, prerogatives, exemptions, the duties and the rights that a patriarch has to exercise in promoting all the spiritual, educational, social life of his people."

The patriarch also paid tribute to the King's statesmanship. "I had already my impression by watching him on television in his expressions, in his composed attitude of expressing himself with confidence and firmness," he said.

"We also know there are many problems that the King and the government of Jordan have to face. I have met with the prime minister, the minister of foreign affairs, the minister of interior and the speakers of both Houses of Parliament, and I felt that they all have the same concerns and hope that the crisis that has been created by the events in the past weeks will find their just solution and instead of war, which everybody abhors, peace will prevail," the patriarch said.

"We discussed all the problems in the region. In all cases the aspiration is that the dignity and human rights for all the people in the area are respected so that no one will be deprived of these rights whether as human beings or as organised communities,"

the patriarch said.

Concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict the patriarch said: "Everyone realises that there is no simple solution. However it is not impossible to eventually come to some manner of resolving the disagreements if all parties exercise flexibility."

On the on-going intifada in the occupied territories, Manougian said: "The intifada is affecting all and it is the people who are mainly feeling the pressure. Everyone would like to see that the causes of the intifada are removed."

As for the Armenians in the occupied territories, the 72-year-old patriarch said: "The Armenian community is part of the whole picture. It is not an isolated community therefore the Armenians also feel the pressure. They are beginning to think that if the current situation continues they might consider emigration away from the area."

"We are not happy about those feelings and intentions, the patriarch added.

"We do not get special favours. We are all in the same boat and the suffering is shared by all communities."

"My message to the Armenians in Jordan, which I emphasised

several times during my visit, is that they should be thankful to their own traditions, their own history and their own heritage. Thus they will be bound to be loyal citizens, they will be bound to serve the country, the society they are living in. We expect of our Armenian people to be known and recognised as family loving people, caring for their children, for the moral and spiritual upbringing of their children. Through that they may progress individually and collectively and be recognised as a useful, trustworthy element by all other ethnic groups who live in this part of the world."

"They should remember that they are the generation of the survivors of the massacres of 1915. Our people was doomed to die and be exterminated. God saved our people through the hospitality of the Arab Nation who gave refuge and were hospitable and gave us the opportunity to bring our family together, to settle, to reorganise ourselves and to progress," the patriarch added.

Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Muheilan Tuesday received the Armenian Patriarch and reviewed with him the situations in the region.

Children's mini-summit to be organised by YWCA, UNICEF

AMMAN (J.T.) — As part of the national preparations for the World Summit for Children, due to convene at the United Nations headquarters in New York from Sept. 29 to Sept. 30, the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Regional Office in Amman will organise a mini-summit for Jordanian children, Friday, Sept. 21.

Taking part in this event, which is one of a series of activities preparing Jordanian children for the world summit, will be around 100 children, representing private schools, Ministry of Education schools and UNRWA (the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees) schools. Children gathering at this event will discuss three topics related to health, education and

peace. At the end of their discussions children are supposed to come up with a declaration, summing up their recommendations.

Addressing the gathering will be UNICEF Deputy Regional Director for Middle East and North Africa and Jordan Representative, Nigel Fisher, who will deliver the key note address. The event will be attended by several officials from UNICEF, Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) and the YWCA.

UNICEF regional office maintains close relations with governmental and non-governmental organisations, and has so far cooperated with the Arab Thought Forum, NHF, Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund, Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in holding symposia, workshops and lectures on issues related to mothers and children as well as children's rights.

Jordanian doctor wins applause for application of surgery technique

By Joumana Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Jordanian doctor has pioneered a new technique in gall bladder surgery and has hit headlines in the American media; but the irony is that the doctor now happens to be an American citizen, having been turned down by a Jordanian institution 20 years ago.

In Albany, New York, Dr. Haider Goussous has almost become a household name for his achievement in successfully performing 16 surgeries since Aug. 20, 1990, when he introduced the technique of laparoscopic cholecystectomy at St. Peter Hospital, where he is surgeon and chief of staff in control of 478 other doctors. Many newspapers have highlighted the doctor's achievement.



Dr. Haider Goussous

a half years to reply to my offer and even at that it was rejection," he said. "I still have that 1971 letter with me."

"I would have liked very much to come back to my country and serve it, but fate had something else for me," he said.

Explaining the new technique, which is practised in many American states, Dr. Goussous said patients could leave hospital in about 24 to 48 hours after surgery, and could go back to work in less than a week's time. But, he said, the operation cost is slightly higher than the regular gall bladder surgery.

The technique involves making four small incisions, approximately half an inch long, on the abdominal wall to serve as entry points for surgical instruments and extracting the stones.

Laparoscopic cholecystectomy is performed under general anaesthesia using a long, narrow scope which houses a miniature light and television camera. The scope is guided through the navel to the gall bladder site and a picture of the area is transmitted on to a video screen. The surgical instruments used to perform the procedure are then inserted through incisions in the abdominal wall. Any stones are withdrawn through the navel incision.

Goussous said the technique could also be used for appendix, lymph nodes infections, tubal ligation and stomach ulcer.

The advantages of the new type of surgery, he said, is that "if it appears that something is going wrong during the course of the surgery, the doctor can always switch to the old method without any risk to the patient."

"I always tell my patients that this could be the case," he said. "But I have never been forced to opt for the old method in any of the 16 operations I did since Aug. 20," he added.

Dr. Goussous, who is married to an American citizen and has three daughters, said he is willing to offer his expertise to Jordanian doctors if someone asked him.

"Jordan has an excellent selection of doctors who are always willing to learn and be updated," he said. "I am really impressed with the Jordanian medical institutions."

Japanese airlines to assist the evacuation process

AMMAN (J.T.) — Japan Airlines and all Nippon Airways will operate one evacuation flight each organised by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) on Wednesday, Sept. 19, 1990, repatriating about 600 Philippine evacuees from Amman to Manila.

Both flights will also bring in assistance materials such as blankets, mattresses and dried foods, which will be handed over to the government of Jordan upon arrival.

The government of Japan had previously extended an emergency aid of \$12 million to IOM to enable the Asian evacuees in Jordan and other countries to return to their home countries in view of the serious situation of Asian evacuees who have crossed into Jordan but cannot return home.

EC provides Jordan with \$28.8m so far

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Community (EC) said in a press release issued in Amman that it had provided a total of \$26.6 million in grants to relieve evacuees entering Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq since Aug. 22, 1990.

In addition member states of the community have co-financed with the EC another \$2.2 million for emergency aid, bringing the total of \$28.8 million, according to the statement.

It said that the grants were used for the:

- a. Repatriation of people from Amman, Aqaba, Ankara and Cairo, in co-financing with other donors through the International Organisation for Migration and with the World Lutheran Federation. The contribution of the commission amounts to \$17.5 million. The arrangements for an air bridge have made provisions for the evacuation of some 70,000 people, including about 36,000 Egyptians by bus, plane and ferry boat, some 22,000 Bangladeshis by plane and some 11,000 Filipinos and Sri Lankans by plane.
- b. The evacuation of 20,000 Pakistanis from Kuwait to Amman supported with a grant of \$1.7 million.
- c. The provision of various supplies such as tents, blankets, food, as well as personnel working inside Jordan, for about \$4

million.

Food aid (\$4.2 million) comprising 9,000 tonnes of wheat, 500 tonnes of vegetable oil, 200 tonnes milk powder, 500 tonnes rice and 200 tonnes of lentils.

The measures aimed at providing immediate support for the evacuees in Jordan are carried out by:

- International Committee of the Red Cross/Jordan National Red Crescent Society: co-financing of \$1 million including the provision of 4 planes, transportation, tents, blankets and medicine.
- Medicines Sans Frontieres (\$0.6 million) for the provision of tents, plastic sheets, blankets and medical tents.
- Medicin Du Monde (\$0.3 million) for the supply of medicine, shelter material, sanitation equipment.

The Jordanian Crisis Committee has been supported with a total of \$1.7 million for the purchase of food on the local market and for the payment of local transport of the evacuees from the border to the transit camps and to the airports.

The commission of the European Communities is prepared to make available further financial aid to assist in the speedy repatriation of evacuees and thereby to alleviate the already heavy burden on the Jordanian economy and the government's budget.

Cerebral Palsy Foundation to start fund raising campaign

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cerebral Palsy Foundation (CPF) plans to launch its eighth fund raising campaign on Oct. 4 and has appealed to all organisations and private citizens to extend a helping hand to provide for thousands of children with cerebral palsy conditions offered free medical treatment and therapy.

CPF President Fakhri Bilbeisi, in a statement to the press, said that CPF members, their friends, university, community college and school students will be involved in the one-day campaign to collect donations for the CPF's five centres in Jordan.

"Last year the five centres located in Amman, Zarqa, Irbid, Aqaba and Salt, provided treatment to 4,500 children with cerebral palsy conditions thanks to these contributions," said Bilbeisi.

Participants in this year's campaign, he said, will be distributing leaflets, posters as well as collecting donations from the public. "The posters and leaflets provide information about cerebral palsy which is a condition of a child who suffered brain injury or maldevelopment in the early years of life," Bilbeisi added.

He said that palsy is related to the inability of the child to use his muscles properly, so his mobility becomes retarded, and cerebral means that the cause is the affected brain (central nervous system).

The injury can happen during pregnancy, at delivery or after birth, especially during the critical post-natal month.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- * Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- * Art exhibition by Mohammad Nasrallah at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Department of Antiquities Registration and Research Centre, Jabal Amman.

LECTURE

- * Lecture entitled "Archaeology and Traditional Architecture" by Dr. Ma'awiya Ibrahim at ACOR — 7:00 p.m.

FILMS

- * Feature film entitled "Gregory's Girl" at the British Council — 6:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Promising new move

THE tripartite summit that is scheduled to be held in Morocco today could serve as the nucleus of a new Arab move to solve the Gulf crisis.

Jordan, Morocco and Algeria, are in a unique position to combine forces and come up with a well defined, practical initiative that is acceptable to most, if not all, Arab countries.

The three can even hammer out a blueprint for a pan-Arab peace plan that can offer a real opening for a solution to the crisis. The blueprint could deal with political frameworks, ideas and principles. But it might also involve specifics and timetables and solid proposals.

No doubt such a plan would have to go to the core of the Iraq-Kuwait conflict and suggest ways and steps to settle it. But it can also envisage the establishment of a new and more durable Arab order on the basis of one Arab nation where Arab cooperation and solidarity would acquire a genuine and more lasting meaning and take on new dimensions and greater scope.

Needless to say, the implementation of the plan would have to be predicated on the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the lands and seas of the Arabs and the formation of an Arab peace force if necessary. While such a framework may not correspond fully and completely with each and every idea that is being tossed around in the Arab arena and internationally, it nevertheless reflects the spirit of any workable and practical solution to the problem. There may be in whatever new Arab effort is made, there is no escape from the need to work on them until a suitable and balanced direction is established and assured of success.

Accordingly every effort must be exerted by all principal players in the Gulf crisis to give the initiative a chance to nurture and develop. As any such move offers the only viable option and the only alternative to war, it deserves to be given the benefit of the doubt by all sides. It is clear by now that as long as the West keeps the heat on Iraq, Baghdad is not going to budge one inch from its declared positions. Till this point in time the Western capitals have been beating the drums of war at every juncture and in response to every move from Baghdad — real or imagined or made up — even when Iraqi President Saddam Hussein makes repeated concessions and send repeated peace signals with hope that there is someone out there in the West who is willing to listen and reciprocate.

A new and practical Arab initiative if pursued with goodwill, may change the state of mind of all concerned in the direction of peace and stability. Let us therefore wish the Morocco mini-summit every success.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A CONFERENCE by Arab popular movements aligned against foreign military intervention in the Gulf Monday reflected loud and clear the voice of the Arab masses opposed to the United States presence in the Arab region, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. The conference's declaration manifested the real feelings of all Arabs whether those who took part in the conference or those who have been barred from coming here by their regimes, the paper added. President Bush is wrong in his belief that a decision by certain Arab regimes to send troops to the Gulf reflected a decision by the people who hate the presence of foreign forces on their soil, the paper noted. It said that those countries which decided to send troops to serve alongside the American-Zionist forces in the Arabian Peninsula lack the basic meaning of democratic rule, and are devoid of any political activities, trade union movements and associations that really represent the masses. The conference's declaration opposing the presence of American forces in the Gulf, said the paper, came less than 24 hours after George Bush presented his address by television to the Iraqi people, thus providing the proper reply to Washington's actions and denouncing foreign forces presence. Bush, said the paper, should not suffice himself with what he reads about decisions taken by heads of governments, but should rather carefully study the decisions of the masses in the Arab World who have decided to offer any sacrifice for the sake of protecting their freedom.

The Arab World is subjected these days to a concerted hostile campaign waged through radio and television and the media by the enemies of the Arab nation and designed to discourage the Arabs from taking a supportive stand with regard to Iraq and President Saddam Hussein says a guest columnist in Al Ra'i daily. Tayseer Al Tamimi notes that whoever in Jordan and the other Arab countries listens to the Voice of America, the BBC and the Israeli media realises in an instant that they follow the same pattern of propaganda directed against the Arabs in an attempt to affect their feelings and their sympathies. The writer says that the three media sources are pursuing a relentless psychological warfare on Iraq and picturing the Iraqis as an outcast nation that should be isolated and ruined. The hostile campaign is trying to present the Iraqi troops in Kuwait as monsters, invading diplomatic missions and pillaging Kuwaiti property, killing people and wreaking havoc to the Gulf region, says Tamimi. At the same time, he adds, these campaigns are clearly directed towards widening the gap between the Arab countries which are now divided over the Gulf crisis. The writer says that such hostile campaigns are bound to meet with total failure since Arab masses are determined to uphold their principles and pursue the struggle against all enemies.

Econo-political Forum

American hypocrisy and double standards

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

It looks as though the U.S. has decided to take international law into its own hands. Wrong. Put it in the present perfect continuous tense and get it right; the U.S. has been doing that all the time.

Thus it is the U.S. administration that decides what constitutes international law and what does not. In certain cases, occupation of territory by military force is a civilised act that must be hailed and supported. Of course, the outstanding example of this brand of American-blessed occupation which has become famous worldwide is the occupation of Arab land by Israel. But there are other examples such as the occupation of Panama and Grenada by U.S. troops and of Cyprus by Turkey. The Israeli occupation is even rewarded by the international law-loving U.S.; the prize has been coming for 23 years in the form of something like \$70 billion

worth of cash handouts and sophisticated aircraft, tanks and all sorts of weapons and warfare systems known under the sun.

But other occupation are gross violations of international law, which have to be unconditionally and instantly terminated or else the U.S. will bomb the occupying country into the stone age. That is of course the case of Iraqi "occupation" of Kuwait.

The U.N. Security Council decrees embargo on exports to Iraq with exception of medicines and food in humanitarian circumstances. This is international law. The American president is the only party entitled to say what constitutes a humanitarian case, what does not, and when. If you do not like that, you will have to face an American gun or guided missile.

Under the American-version of international law, President

Saddam Hussein must not use children as a means to avert war. However, President Bush will not let a can of baby milk or food into Iraq so as to starve Iraqi children, pressure President Saddam and force him into submission. In other words, Bush is using children as a means to achieve a political (or military) end. Mr. Bush's act is completely legal.

Mr. Baker, the American Secretary of State, wants Iraq to pay damages to Kuwait because it occupied and destroyed the Kuwaiti economy. This is American international law. Has anybody known about a single dollar paid by the U.S. to Vietnam which was devastated by American bombardment and agent Orange? Paying damages to Vietnam was never mentioned.

Under the American version of international law, Iraq must not only be blockaded but the

blockade will be implemented by force. In expression of American care for international law, an armada has been sent to the Gulf and a war might be waged, no matter of the cost, to see to it that that law is respected. However, when the Soviet Union occupied Afghanistan no blockade was imposed, thanks to American interpretation of international law.

And according to that very version, President Saddam is a "dictator", plausibly because he has not, inter alia, and elected parliament and he himself was not elected by the people so he must be toppled in order to protect, from his threat, all these democracies which thrive in the Gulf area, around it and beyond. The American version of international law dictates that U.S. soldiers fight and die in defence of such "democracies". According to American dou-

ble standards, oil is a strategic commodity and should not be used by oil exporting countries to throttle the industrial economies even if that is deemed necessary to further the vital interests of these countries.

Very well. Wheat is also a strategic commodity which should not be used to strangle human beings in Third World countries. Nevertheless, America has been shamelessly and mercilessly using wheat exports consistently as a political weapon and to further its own interests.

Thus what is legal and illegal is defined in terms of American interests and perceptions and will be enforced, if necessary, by American bombers and battleships. Remember Mr. Bush said he had the right to enforce the sea blockade on Iraq and did not need a mandate from the Security Council. Of course he got that man-

date later, but nevertheless he would have gone ahead with enforcing the blockade even without that mandate because he had his own version of international law (and military might) and can make his own law if that was necessary, exactly as he was saying, before Helsinki summit, that he was entitled to attack Iraq without acquiring a mandate from the United Nations. If it chooses not to go with Mr. Bush, the Security Council can, of course, go to hell.

In a world seemingly tailored or has to be tailored to the American will, whims and way of life, the American president is simultaneously the attorney general, judge and hangman and any "outlaw" will have to kneel down or be shot at the spot by the Texan Sheriff. According to latest Evidence, this Sheriff can even be hired to kill.

In Lebanon 'it's messy' but could get worse soon

By Peter Smerdon

Reuter

BEIRUT — Drums of war are beating loudly after the failure of a two-month blockade to drive Christian General Michel Aoun out of Lebanon presidential palace.

But the world's eyes are fixed on the Gulf and a much bigger contest between blockade and war pitting U.S.-dominated forces against Aoun's former sponsor, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Beirut diplomats said international preoccupations with Iraq and changed Middle East alliances have opened the way for a Syrian-backed assault on Aoun before snow comes to the mountains in November.

The Gulf crisis could also work against an attack. Lebanon's 15-year-old civil war has repeatedly proven itself tied to the region's larger, higher-priority conflicts, the diplomats added.

"In some ways it's good to see Lebanon on the regional back-burner. But pots on the back-burner still boil over if all your attention is elsewhere," said one Western diplomat.

Lebanese troops loyal to President Elias Hrawi this month tightened a noose around the 20 per cent of Lebanon's Christian sector held by Aoun who refuses to recognise Hrawi's presidency. With some 40,000 men in Lebanon, Syria helped the build-up by providing vehicles to transport troops commanded by General Emile Lahoud.

They moved after a blockade ordered by Hrawi on July 28 failed to stop fuel and money reaching Aoun's areas, while the deadlock and the Gulf crisis crippled the Lebanese economy.

The Lebanese pound, declining in fits and starts for more than a decade, has depreciated by a further 75 per cent in the past month. Bankers estimate inflation for the same period at about 150 per cent.

One government source told Reuters on Tuesday he expected 54-year-old Aoun to be toppled within two weeks.

Syria would play a major role in seizing the presidential palace in the East Beirut suburb of Baabda with artillery and rocket cover, and might even join Lahoud's thrust, he said.

But another government source said the cabinet and Syria had not set a date for an attack and "the door for a political settlement is not yet completely shut."

"Aoun, as usual, brought much of this on himself," a diplomat said. "Just when contacts with Hrawi seemed to be moving towards compromise he knocked it down."

"I'm the solution..." I'm the one toying with their destiny," Aoun said a week ago. "I'm staying here even if they bombard me, invade my territory or roll thousands of tanks into Baabda."

His defiance surprised even diplomats used to his dismissal of Hrawi as a Syrian puppet and his rejection an Arab-sponsored peace pact for Lebanon since October.

Aoun has been more isolated since May when a ceasefire ended four months of battles for the enclave between his troops and Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militiamen under Samir Geagea. Diplomats said Aoun had apparently not received any arms or ammunition from his former ally Hrawi since Hrawi ordered the blockade.

Security sources said some 6,000 of Lahoud's men would be in position by the end of this week. Aoun has an estimated 14,000 men to face the LF and any attack by Syrian and Lebanese troops.

Lahoud's deployment is expected to be completed shortly before Hrawi announces the signing of constitutional reforms opposed by Aoun, political sources said.

But diplomats said it was still far from clear that a push to Baabda would be launched in the near future, despite the sabre-rattling from West Beirut.

Lahoud, convinced Lebanon's divided army should never fight itself, opposed earlier plans for his predominantly Muslim troops to take on Aoun's better-equipped Christian brigades.

"The military movements are designed to put Aoun under pressure. But Lahoud's army isn't even a paper tiger and would need heavy Syrian support," one diplomat said.

He said Syria's 7th armoured division was still on its side of the border with Lebanon and Syrian strength in West Beirut was cut this month when at least two regiments of special forces troops were sent to Saudi Arabia.

"Meanwhile Geagea sits on the sidelines in case he sees a chance to proclaim himself savior of either Lebanon or the Christians," the diplomat said.

"It's messy, full of terrible possibilities and empty of the leaders the Lebanese need to end their pain."

Democracy in Kuwait no matter what

By Patrick Werr

Reuter

CAIRO — If Kuwait is restored as a separate state again, it would have little choice but to move quickly to restore democracy under pressure from a revitalised opposition and Western nations helping to drive Iraq out of the emirate.

Kuwaiti political activists and Middle East analysts say the Iraqi invasion has given the pro-democracy movement all the ammunition it needs to force the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al Sabah, to share power with a strong legislature.

Kuwaiti dissidents, led by former parliamentary speaker Ahmed Al Saadoun, have violently rejected overtures from the Iraqi leadership.

The activists said Saddam had tried to open a dialogue with the Kuwaiti opposition shortly before his Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait and invited about 40 to a meeting in Baghdad but nothing came of his efforts.

"The pro-democracy activists have now won their patriotic spurs and they cannot be kept out of any future government," one said.

"We are with the emir, but there will have to be changes in the government in the future," a member of Kuwait's dissolved parliament told Reuters by telephone from his post-invasion home in Europe. "The only solution for Kuwait now is democracy."

The pro-democracy activists have long argued that an open society with a democratically elected government was the only way to ensure the tiny country's independence from strong neighbours like Iraq.

Had there been an operative parliament, they say, Saddam would have been robbed of a "Robin Hood" image he has been promoting of taking from a corrupt and feudalistic ruling family the oil wealth that rightfully belonged to the Arab masses.

Unlike the rest of its Arab neighbours in the Gulf, Kuwait had a working parliament for much of the 29 years since gaining independence from Britain in 1961.

The emir dissolved parliament, clamped down on what had been a lively free press and suspended articles of the constitution at the height of the Gulf war in 1990 on grounds of security. He cited a foreign conspiracy to destabilise Kuwait after bombings and

other unrest blamed on pro-Iranian militants.

A vocal opposition group launched a campaign last December to revive the dissolved assembly, arguing there were no longer any obstacles to a return of democracy since fighting between Kuwait's huge Gulf neighbours Iran and Iraq had ended in 1988.

The emir called elections for an assembly, with no legislative powers, to consider the future shape of democracy after accusing the previous parliament of sowing dissent.

The assembly, with 50 members elected by Kuwaitis and 25 appointed by the emir, had its first session less than a month before Iraqi troops overran the country.

The pro-democracy opposition said the new assembly was toothless and unconstitutional. Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, has asked all members of the dissolved parliament to meet with the government to show the world a united front against the Iraqi invasion. No date has been set but they will probably meet in Saudi Arabia, activists said.

An activist now with the resistance inside Kuwait said several groups there were fighting Iraqis under the slogan: "expel the occupation and return to the constitution."

He said by telephone that Kuwaiti fighters wanted both the emir and the constitution restored.

Kuwait's constitution guarantees the hereditary position of an emir with executive powers, but also provides for a strong elected legislative assembly able to overrule his decisions.

One analyst said Kuwaitis felt betrayed by many Arab countries and might look towards the democratic West, especially the United States, which is leading multinational efforts to force Iraq out of Kuwait, for their political inspiration.

He said that if Kuwait was ever to be restored the country would be under the international spotlight, making it harder for the government to resist the return to democracy.

Even strong supporters of the ruling Al-Sabah family say political change will be inevitable.

"We are a small, rich country and people will not allow us to live in the way we want," said Walid Khaled Marzouk, editor of Kuwait's Al-Anba

Timely play of Soviet card by S. Arabia

By Donna Fenn Heintzen

The Associated Press

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia, which has been flirting with Moscow for months, has finally played its Soviet card by re-establishing diplomatic ties.

At the same time, the Soviet Union, long-standing patron of Baghdad, now has a foothold in the richest Arab country after 52 years of estrangement.

Prince Abdul Rahman Ben Abdul Aziz, the deputy defence minister, has already raised the possibility of arms deals.

Off-the-cuff comments to reporters Tuesday, he referred to the general Saudi military procurement policy of seeking "developed weapons whatever the type."

In that and other ways, the conservative kingdom can now present itself as a balanced country not entirely dependent on the United States.

"The Soviet Union is a superpower and events have proved it is an important element of the United Nations, and its resolutions," Prince Abdul Rahman said.

The Soviets have endorsed seven Security Council resolutions against Iraq since the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Pro-government Saudi papers in the kingdom welcomed the diplomatic relations. The daily Okaz underscored the importance of the ties with a country "of such important political weight ... which has lately been clearly evident through the balanced policy that won wide international support."

"The Saudi papers noted that Soviet transformations on religious freedom and human rights were conducive to a policy 'much in harmony with the kingdom's policy,'" Okaz said.

Riyadh-based diplomatic sources said that while the Gulf crisis, has accelerated the reestablishment of formal relations, they were not surprised at the development.

"It was the most logical move," said one diplomat, who like the others spoke on condition he not be named.

When Saudi Arabia forged diplomatic ties with China in July, experts predicted that relations with the Soviet Union would follow within a year.

During the Gulf war, said one source, the Saudis realised the advantage of having diplomatic relations with all permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. With the formal exchange of envoys

with the Soviet Union, the Saudis will have achieved that goal.

"This is a move that has been in the works for a long time and is the natural culmination of a series of events, said a Western diplomatic source here. "There was no question that it would come within a year, but the events of Aug. 2 accelerated it."

The communique issued Monday stated that both countries would "work actively to achieve settlements to regional conflicts, develop international cooperation, and strengthen overall peace and security."

Sources here say the Soviet Union is not likely to contribute either militarily or monetarily to solve the Gulf crisis.

"The Soviet Union is so absorbed in its own problems, they shouldn't be expected to contribute forces," said one diplomat. "But what they're doing in the U.N. has been quite helpful. It's an extra show of solidarity."

The Soviet Union, the first country to officially recognise King Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, called back its last ambassador to the kingdom in 1938. He was later executed.

In the past several years, the two countries have been in contact through Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the United Nations and to the U.S., but the Soviet presence in Afghanistan remained a major stumbling block.

In December 1988, the Saudis hosted a meeting between Afghan Mujahideen leaders and Soviet officials in the mountain retreat of Taif. Diplomatic sources here said the venue was significant. The Soviets, wooing Saudi Arabia for years without success, were willing to let the Saudis play the role of negotiator.

While the treatment of Soviet Muslims was previously an obstacle, the Saudis have been quick to acknowledge religious reforms in the Soviet Union. This year, 1,500 Soviet Muslims made the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, the largest number in 60 years. King Fahd announced that they were to be treated as his personal guests.

"The Soviets seem to be playing a more positive role in the Middle East in that they are no longer supporting aggressors," said a senior diplomat. "This (reestablishing relations) may be the Saudis' way of thanking them for that and for their support in the United Nations."

"Ari" put back on Jordanian track

To the Editor:

CONCERNING the article entitled "Crisis Threatens Jordan's Shipping Sector" by Mr. Vivekanand which appeared in the Jordan Times on Sept. 17, I would like to set the record straight about the turning back of the Taiwanese ship "Ari."

According to an "anonymous source," the "Ari" was carrying building materials for Jordan and was prevented from proceeding to Aqaba by a U.S. Navy ship. "It appeared that the commander of the force was applying a prerogative which allows him to turn back ships carrying any cargo which may be used by Iraq, even though it could be destined for a Jordanian purchaser." The source went on to say that the ship had to wait three days outside the Straits of Tiran before it was determined that its cargo was for Jordan and allowed to continue on to Aqaba.

The U.S. Navy was queried about the "Ari" and they verified that the ship was carrying cargo bound for Iraq. The ship's captain decided to proceed to a nearby port to unload the Iraqi-bound

cargo. The "Ari" then returned to Aqaba and its Jordanian cargo was unloaded.

The policy of the United States Government concerning cargo or passengers bound for Jordan was stated clearly on Aug. 29: "The United States has no intention of delaying cargo or passengers bound for Jordan. Indeed, our goal in dealing with other governments, international shippers and others will continue to be to ensure that Jordan's legitimate trade is not hindered in any way. To avoid undue delay, we advise all shipping lines to ensure that ships bound for ports in the region carry no cargo destined for Iraq in contravention of U.N. Security Resolution 661. Ship's suspected of carrying such cargo are likely to be delayed or diverted."

Jonathan P. Owen
Counselor for Press
and Cultural Affairs
American Embassy
Amman.

Drive carefully!

Traffic can be hazardous

Features

Intifada changes people's attitudes, ushers new roles for women

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — During the Palestinian uprising, in the West Bank and Gaza, one woman successfully hid a boy under her long traditional dress. The Israeli soldiers, who barged into the house looking for the boy, had to leave empty handed. In another case, a woman quickly undressed a boy, put him in the bathtub, making it look like he was being bathed by his own mother in his own home. He also escaped arrest.

According to neurologist Nassir Khouri, one of the positive impacts of the intifada has been the disappearance of fear from Israeli soldiers. In the past, fear of Israeli sanctions prevented Palestinians from resisting occupation. The intifada has

brought out a sense of courage, and now the majority of the population are out in the streets fighting for their cause.

"To a large extent, the growing sense of fearlessness may be attributed to the mass civilian base of the resistance and the strong foundations of community solidarity that were generated during the intifada," says a researcher who preferred anonymity.

Psychiatrist Dr. Walid Sarhan explains that national crises bring communities closer together.

"Discrimination between families and on class basis have eroded due to people's feeling of common destiny," Khouri says. He adds that there were many stories of children escaping from the Israeli soldiers by entering the first house they see. "Although the families are aware of the risks

involved, like being beaten, they remain courageous and plan ingenious ways of hiding the youth."

Palestinian women in particular have responded in total fearlessness which in turn helped to create a change in their stereotype roles. According to the Arab Journal of Psychiatrists, 23 women living in the Israeli occupied territories were asked about how would they react if one of their children was beaten or wounded. There was consensus among the women that they would feel angry, but this only increases their determination to fight.

Though all families, especially women, try to protect their children from being beaten, they still encourage them to go out in the streets and fight. When they get killed, or wounded, they are con-

sidered heroes by the mother, says Sarhan.

What the intifada has ushered is a dramatic change of the role of women in the family and society, say the specialists. Once a taboo for young girls to stay out late at night has become a fact of everyday life. Being amongst other young boys no longer makes any difference to the parents. A specialist who preferred anonymity maintains that in this respect, "traditional values and morals are no longer as strong as they once were as these have been replaced by the national interest."

Sarhan disagrees. He says that women have kept to the traditional values and that they just took a more active role in society. To a degree, women have gained equality with men. "Now they are doing similar things as do men. They fight in the streets and they encourage their children to fight."

A 16-year-old Palestinian girl who was in Jordan recently said she felt that coming to Amman had deprived her of her freedom to move. "I could go out whenever I wanted back home and I could do anything I wanted to do," she says.

The extensive and courageous involvement of women have challenged patriarchal authority and traditional notions of obedience and family honour, the researcher insists. In this regard, the women have achieved respect and appreciation for their new roles. The women who were traditionally the target of so many stereotypes, have risen against the enemy and portrayed unmatched courage to the point where they put their own lives at risk for the sake of saving someone else's, Sarhan says.

Dr. Assad Abdul Rahman, who heads the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation, asserts that in places like the Gaza Strip where Muslim extremism flourishes, women are required to stay at home and dress conservatively and play their traditional roles as mothers and wives. "I do not think that the values of the less religious have disintegrated,



"What remains is a grim determination to proceed and sacrifice what is necessary. The photo shows a Palestinian resident of a village in the occupied West Bank and his three-year old son stand

beside the rubble of their home demolished by Israeli troops (File photo)

though they have changed to a great extent," Abdul Rahman says.

Because traditions were affected so was marriage. Also "arranged" marriages are no longer as common as in the past. Sarhan notes that since class distinctions are no longer as defined as before, a girl's man is the hero of the intifada, "regardless of whether he was healthy, wounded or whatever."

Fatima, a 19-year-old Palestinian says that for girls "it is a national duty. It makes them feel good to be able to serve their national cause, and they would marry with dignity anyone who is a hero."

There has been increasing incidents of early marriage during the intifada, a specialist maintains. "While previously, girls were expected to finish high school before marrying, more recently, girls of 13 and 14 years of age are getting married," Sarhan says that the long-term implications need further assessment.

"The young girls will face harsh

difficulties if their husbands are killed or imprisoned and they are left alone to care for their children," he says.

Aside from the erosion of class distinction, the researcher says that another aspect to this totally fearless population is the way in which all sectors in the community and all levels of class have come to help each other. It has generated pride, achievement and a determination to persist. In an account told by Fatima: "I can remember very well how our landlord refrained from demanding rent for his premises because of solidarity created by the intifada."

However, the researcher states that "some distinctions have begun to reappear and cause tension within the Palestinian community." "Some of this had to do with the way funds and aid were being received and distributed in the occupied territories."

"The intifada creates a very good sense of strength and makes us much closer together," Fatima says. She adds that often, when

her family would receive water, they would check with their neighbours to see if they had water too. "I think it has made us more aware of other people around us and definitely more considerate to one another."

According to a researcher, residents around the Balata refugee camp near Nablus collected the equivalent of \$45,000 to help the camp's refugees. However, the people of Balata insisted that the money goes instead to the Jabaliya camp in the Gaza Strip.

Not only are people helping one another but the "grassroots committees" in the West Bank have been able to adapt their roles in light of the new situation, according to Sarhan. "It is these committees, such as women's movements and voluntary societies, that have emerged into local, popular and neighbourhood committees that are now famous for their roles in organising and administering daily life under the intifada," a specialist says.

According to Abdul Rahman,

there are many examples of medical relief committees where women activists have defied curfews and risked their lives to enter into closed areas especially after brutal confrontation or long sieges.

Fatima says that "sometimes the only medical care we would get is from these relief committees, unless the injury was too serious." She adds that just having these popular committees generates a sense of confidence, power and dignity.

However, people have started to feel the pinch under Israel's harsh occupation. "We are beginning to feel a great need to see concrete results that emerge from our efforts: some progress," says a 17-year-old Palestinian. "Palestinians are becoming weary because the pressures of life are unendurable." But with vehemence, he makes it known that there is no going back to the pre-intifada days. "What remains is a grim determination to proceed and sacrifice what is necessary."



"Palestinian women in particular have responded in total fearlessness which in turn helped to create a change in their stereotype roles."

Arafat: Iraq ready to negotiate

(Continued from page 1)

the way for talks between Saddam and King Fahd, noting that Perez de Cuellar has a responsibility to mediate even though the Security Council, in seven unanimous resolutions, has backed the U.S. and Saudi positions and condemned the Iraqi invasion.

"This is an international crisis," said Arafat. "It is one of his duties to continue, not only here and there."

He said that the U.N. chief did not get any assurances from Vietnam or Kampuchea or Namibia or South Africa before involving himself in negotiations to help end conflicts in those "hotspots."

Therefore it is not fair for him to demand any guarantees from Iraq before making an effort to find out if a settlement is possible, the PLO leader said.

"It is part of his responsibilities," he added.

"No one has suggested he only work when he knows he will get successful results."

Asked if Saddam had expressed a willingness to withdraw from Kuwait and permit the legitimate government to return to power, Arafat said: "I prefer not to give the details. I am not the official spokesman of the Iraqi government."

"But I want to stress a point," he said. "I am optimistic we can achieve a political solution once there is approval by any means, by any channel, from the American government that they are willing to achieve this peaceful solution."

A senior Iraqi Foreign Ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed that Iraq has asked the United States to open a higher-level dialogue in an effort to deescalate the seven-week-old crisis, the Hearst report said.

The Iraqi official said: "My nation is prepared for talks on any level without preconditions." He said his government had not formally requested a visit by Perez de Cuellar but added that he "is welcome to come here at any time."

The main channel of communications between the United States and Iraq has been through Joseph C. Wilson IV, the deputy chief of mission at the U.S. embassy in Baghdad. U.S. officials have refused earlier efforts by Iraq to boost the level of contacts.

Saddam even offered to debate Bush on television, an offer that was immediately rejected by the White House.

A U.S. embassy official here said that the latest Iraqi move is a ploy because Iraq refuses to withdraw its troops from Kuwait prior to the start of such talks.

Arafat said that is unfair because Iraq is not demanding the

withdrawal of U.S., Egyptian, British, French and other multinational forces from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf before beginning talks to resolve the crisis.

"Why are you not opening this dialogue with him? I have the right to ask why Mr. Perez de Cuellar didn't come to Baghdad? Why did he go only to Amman?" asked Arafat. "If you want to arrive at a settlement, you have to go to the two parties, not only one only," he said. Ignoring Iraq is a "fatal mistake," he said.

The U.N. chief met Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Amman last month in talks that failed to produce any progress. Asked if Saddam is ready to meet with Perez de Cuellar in Baghdad, the PLO leader replied: "Yes, I am sure of it."

Arafat repeated upon arrival in Amman that his visit to Baghdad was aimed at pushing for a political solution to the Gulf crisis "despite the serious statements by the U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff which revealed that the aim of the American military build-up in the Gulf region is not to defend any Arab country but to attack Baghdad and the Arab Iraqi people." The Air Force Chief of Staff, General Mike Dugan, was dismissed by Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, one day after Dugan was quoted as saying in published reports that U.S. military authorities had drawn up a list of targets to be hit in air strikes on Baghdad, including President Saddam Hussein and his senior aides.

"It is a serious issue we should be aware of," Arafat was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, in an arrival statement.

Arafat also attacked the Egyptian media for their assault on PLO leaders, saying that such criticism also harms the Palestinian people.

In reply to a question on expulsion of Palestinians from some Arab countries, including Qatar, Arafat said the PLO was committed to "shouldering its national, pan-Arab and ethical responsibilities towards the Palestinian people."

Shortly after arrival, Arafat, who is accompanied by PLO Executive Committee Member Salah Khalaf, was the guest of honour at a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Mudar Badran. It was attended by parliament speakers, cabinet members and Palestine National Council officials.

Arafat later met with George Habash and Nayef Hawatmeh, leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine respectively. Habash and Hawatmeh are in Amman after a three-day Arab conference here on the Gulf crisis.

Jordan to gear agriculture towards vital crops production

By Ali Masarwah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Gulf crisis has had a profound impact on Middle Eastern countries, not only in terms of destabilising regional security, but it has also put severe strains on the economies of the regions' countries.

By adhering to the U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq, Jordan is on the verge of being hit by a devastating economic recession with the agricultural sector standing to lose the most by the crisis.

The loss of the all-important Iraqi market and the prospect of trade with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries being reduced to a trickle, the export oriented agricultural sector faces an uncertain future.

Amidst these alarming developments which are bound to have dire consequences on the future of the country, economic and agricultural experts are demanding a drastic reorientation of the agricultural sector towards increasing the local production of vital crops, such as wheat, barley, animal fodder and other basic products.

"Jordan, like all other developing countries, has been caught unprepared by the recent turn of events (in the Gulf). What we need now is a short-term, in the worst case even a long-term strategy, which ensures the greatest possible degree of self dependence in the field of vital foodstuff production," Akel Al Zu'bi, a senior official of the Jordan Agricultural Marketing Organisation told the Jordan Times.

Since gaining independence in 1946, Jordan has been committed to developing a modern irrigated agricultural sector in the Jordan Valley, with the official policy tending to encourage fruit and vegetable production there. By

implementing irrigation projects (such as the East Ghor Canal project), providing funds for farmers, encouraging researches aimed at improving production methods and undertaking land reclamation schemes, the government and its agencies have actively encouraged the expansion of the irrigated sector.

Although this shift in Jordanian agricultural policy has made Jordan one of the main vegetable exporting countries in the Middle East, the policy has also hastened the downfall of the traditional agricultural sector which mainly produced cereals, wheat, barley and lentils.

While actively supporting the irrigated sector in the Jordan Valley, the non-interventionist policy of the government in the highland areas has led to a steady decline of field crop production, which forces Jordan to import an ever-growing amount of wheat, barley and other so-called "strategic crops."

The figures for Jordan's wheat and barley production over the last 12 years, illustrate the decline of the traditional agricultural sector. In 1974, 180,000 tonnes of wheat and 50,000 tonnes of barley were produced. In 1986, the figures were only 40,000 and 14,500 thousand tonnes respectively.

Meanwhile, the production of winter vegetables (such as tomatoes, eggplant, squash, cucumbers, sweet pepper, etc...) increased from a total of 177,000 tonnes in 1974 to around 300,000 tonnes in 1986.

Similarly, the areas of field crop products (wheat, barley, lentils, sesame, maize, etc...) also declined between 1974 and 1986, with the cultivated area declining from a total of 2.97 million dunums in 1974 to about 810,000 dunums in 1986.

New Plans

Due to the recent escalation of tension in the Gulf which could erupt into an all out war, coupled with the heavy financial burden for the import of the necessary amounts of vital crops, agricultural and economic experts have drawn up plans the implementation of which could lead to the increase of the production of strategic crops and thereby reduce Jordan's dependence on grain imports.

In a memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Agriculture Aug. 20, experts from the faculty of agriculture at the University of Jordan submitted several recommendations, aimed at adjusting the agricultural sector "to deal with the present emergency situation."

According to the memorandum, an increase in the production of field crops by planting the largest possible area and through the use of modern technology should be achieved. People should be made aware about the importance of this nation-wide production-increase campaign, farmers and other citizens should be informed through the media and instructed to utilise the largest possible area of arable land, including the establishment of home-gardens, the experts proposed.

In order to achieve this, the government should buy locally produced crops from farmers at subsidised prices, provide farmers with credit, offer all the necessary production facilities (such as pesticides, seedlings and fertilisers) to farmers and mobilise the work force needed to carry out this production increase, according to the memorandum.

Besides allocating the largest areas of land for field crop production, non-essential products,

such as tobacco, should be partially substituted with vital crops in rain-fed areas, and summer vegetables should be planted in home gardens. In irrigated areas, half the amount of land should be allocated to wheat production, and potato and corn production should also be increased during this season in these areas, according to the University experts.

General manager of the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company, Dr. Ayed Al Wirt confirmed the necessity of diverting intense efforts to increase Jordan's vital crop production.

"It is vital, of course, to increase grain production and provide farmers with the incentives to do so, but at the same time, consumer habits are going to have to change: instead of consuming 550,000 tonnes of wheat annually, most of which is imported, Jordan's consumption should be cut down to 300,000, or even 250,000 tonnes. People have to get used to living without cake, biscuits and other luxury items," Al Wirt said.

The time factor is also of great importance, as the seeds of crops planted in rain-fed areas in the southern and eastern regions of the Kingdom depend on the early rains in October for their survival, according to Al Wirt.

"Due to the unstable rainfall in winter, there is a high risk in planting field crops in rain-fed areas in any case, but chances for a good harvest are greatly enhanced if the seeds are sowed in September and October. As the southern and eastern areas constitute about 80 per cent of the land suitable for wheat production, the concerned authorities should induce farmers to begin sowing immediately," Dr. Al Wirt maintained.

Short-term strategy

The main issue jointly agreed upon by the experts interviewed was the absolute necessity for the government to rethink its agricultural policy on a short term basis.

"In spite of the fact that the fall of the Jordanian dinar during the last few years stabilised the exports of Jordanian vegetables and eased the pressure of Turkish competitors, the previous governments based their agricultural policies on foundations of sand. The concentration on the production of perishables at a very high cost for farmers without guaranteeing stable and secure markets for Jordanian exports is a risk," the former director of the Jorda-



The Gulf crisis has increased the official awareness of the need to shift agricultural priorities to substitute resource draining imports such as wheat, barley and other vital crops.

nian Cooperative Organisation, Mureid Al Tell said.

The current Gulf crisis and its impact on Jordan highlights the necessity for reshaping the government's agricultural policy, according to Al Tell. He added that previous governments' agricultural policies had been "missing a clear line" and had at times even been "outrageously foolish."

"Instead of implementing a policy which benefits neither the farmers nor the consumers, the government should substitute resource-draining imports (wheat, barley and other vital crops) with local products," Al Tell maintained.

Commenting on the various proposals submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture on how to modify the Jordanian agriculture in the light of the present situation, the secretary-general of the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Sami Suna'a said the ministry had two weeks ago prepared a document concerning the role of the agricultural sector during a time of crisis or a state of war.

"This document sets up strategies and policies to be adopted in the (field of) production and marketing of all agricultural commodities. The document also deals with the supply of inputs required for this production, and it also contains a plan of action considering all the possible economic and political developments," Suna'a said.

The main paper of the document worked out by the Ministry of Agriculture is expected to be discussed at the next meeting of the Higher Jordanian Agricultural Council. The other various proposals submitted by the Agricultural Credit Corporation, the Agricultural Marketing Organisation, the University of Jordan and the Jordan Cooperative Organisation, would also be reviewed according to Suna'a.

While Dr. Suna'a declined to divulge the details of the document, well informed government sources said present governmental plans designed to cope with the present crisis represented a "comprehensive strategy, de-

signed to counter all possible eventualities at various levels."

"Several possible scenarios are envisaged by this specific document. The total stoppage of Jordanian exports to GCC countries, a partial stoppage of exports and even the total closure of Jordanian borders were considered. For each of these possibilities concrete measures have been planned by the government," the official, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, said.

He added that some of the proposals submitted to the government by other parties contained "good ideas", but that most of plans "lack the necessary details, are superficial and do not cover all angles."

"Although all plans contain important elements, such as increasing wheat and barley production and providing incentives for people to increase home production by establishing home gardens, these plans contain a lot of slogans and empty phrases the implementation of which is impossible. The responsibility of providing feasible plans lies solely on the shoulders of the government. Therefore, establishing action plans of such gravity needs very meticulous planning," the official said.

The days when Jordan used to be self-sufficient in the production of wheat, barley, cereals, lentils, meat and dairy products are, of course, long gone, and the changes which Jordan has undergone since the days of the British mandate, such as the massive increase in the population, the decrease of the size of arable land and the scarcity of water, among other factors, make it all but impossible to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of field crops, most of the experts agreed.

But due to the current situation, which can mildly be described as being "critical", all efforts must be mobilised to increase self-dependency in vital foodstuff production and thereby reduce Jordan's vulnerability to possible outside intervention and political blackmail.

Badran warns against use of force on Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

means to solve the Gulf crisis and reaffirmed diplomacy as the means to achieve peace.

Q: Do you therefore believe that the Helsinki summit was positive? What is your view?

A: In the light of what I have just said, I believe that the summit yielded positive results.

Q: Do you think that the Soviet Union had a major influence in issuing the Helsinki resolutions?

A: Iraq had taken into consideration right from the start that the United Nations would not bless the occupation of another country because such move would not be approved by countries of the world. But, from a pan-Arab point of view, Kuwait was originally Iraqi land.

The Soviet Union's position was clear and it opposed the occupation of another country by war and therefore the Soviet Union and the United States agree on this point and, together with the Western nations, they all call for a withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. I believe that there can be no withdrawal if force is used since the use of force is unacceptable to the Soviet Union.

In addition, Moscow had raised an important point by calling for the convening of an international conference. This call is in harmony with an initiative made by President Saddam Hussein on Aug. 12 which was disregarded by the world community. This initiative should have been discussed and Iraq's demands should have been given attention by the world community. What the West and the world at large want Iraq to do and implement should be applicable also to the occupied Arab lands.

Q: We understand from this that the Soviet Union's position was effective at the summit?

A: Yes. It was and Moscow has proved its weight and that it is still a superpower.

Q: What comment do you have on President Gorbachev's statement that Washington cannot buy its country with its dollars?

A: This statement was in reply to question by a journalist. It could not have come out had the question not been asked. When King Hussein called President Bush at the start of the crisis to discuss the issue Bush said that he realised that Jordan was going through difficult economic circumstances. The King told Bush that he wanted to visit Washington not to discuss this issue but rather to study the fate of a nation and to find ways to avert an explosion and an escalation to the confrontation and war and he said that the presence of foreign troops on holy lands was unacceptable.

Q: What does the continuous military build-up in the Gulf mean now that the Helsinki summit decided to give priority to diplomacy?

A: The United States is continuing to build up its forces and I believe its allies reconsidered the situation and discovered that Iraq possesses power that would inflict heavy casualties on the Americans and the other forces assembled in Saudi Arabia. Jordan realises that the battlefield, in the event of war, would be on and around the oil zone, which means a total devastation of all the oil installations in the region. Apart from Iraq's oil in the Gulf there will be no oil except Iraqi oil. This means that the world will be deprived of half of the total estimated underground oil reserves. I leave it to you to imagine the future and the state of world industry and development in the world.

I would like also to point out that these were included in the calculations of the United States, which had gone to Saudi Arabia in the first place to impose its control over the oil resources. As everybody knows, in military action victory can only be counted by the achievement of objectives and not by merely counting hardware and the victims. Based on the assumption, the United States will be the loser.

Q: I can see from what has been said that there is a contradiction between the American escalation in the region and the Helsinki resolutions?

A: I must say that we should not forget the Israeli intention and we should not forget that Israel has ominous influence on U.S. policies. Israel's position vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis serves Israel's interests and not those of the United States or other countries of the world. Israel views Iraq's military power as a threat to it and strives to have the Western powers destroy this power.

Furthermore, Israel is still planning to achieve this goal and it has the power to bring about changes in other nations' stand with total disregard to the interests of the whole world. I cannot believe the Zionist influence which could push the world towards war and I am afraid that Israel would involve the U.S. in military action.

Q: It is known that the U.S. resorted to the "Desert Shield" operation at this particular moment but the plans had been worked out by the Pentagon in the 1970s as a contingency plan directed against any Soviet attack. Why do you think Washington is using the plan in this crisis?

A: The "Desert Shield" operation was worked out by the Pentagon to defend American interests in the Gulf and this plan is not directed solely against the Soviet Union, but rather against any country in the region, particularly Iran. Washington has pursued preparations of this plan even after its detente with the Soviet Union.

Once the Gulf crisis erupted, Washington put this plan in force even before taking permission from Saudi Arabia. At the same time we had evidence that Iraq harboured no hostile intentions towards Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states and that there was no massing of Iraqi troops against Saudi Arabia.

The Iraqis had assured us that they had no intention of occupying any part of Arab land in the Gulf and they had no historic right to any place except in Kuwait but that in the event of war matters could change.

Q: What is your reply to Israel's repeated threats to Jordan as attributed to Israeli leaders on several occasions. The Israelis have said that they would storm into Jordanian territory should Iraqi troops be present on Jordanian soil?

A: Should Israel launch an aggression on Jordan all the Arab states will be bound, through the defence pact, to defend this country. If there is no Israeli intention to attack Jordan there is no need for any force to be found on Jordanian soil.

Q: What is Jordan's stand with regard to Israel's attempts to separate the "Gulf crisis from the Palestine question?"

A: Israel's attempts in this concern are contrary through it realises the obvious links and is trying to avoid them by all means.

The Palestine question is indeed the root cause of all the problems in the Gulf and in Lebanon. Any solution lies in the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights and the repatriation of the displaced people of Palestine. We can see that differences among Arab states stem from the Palestine question and that all Arab summits were based on this problem. Based on this concept, once the Palestine question has been resolved, all the other issues can be resolved. There is also a need to link the Palestine problem with the East-West detente and the armaments industry in the world. When the military industry of the West realised that the detente and the end of the cold war would save off wars, there was need to think of ways and means for marketing the weapons. For this purpose the military industries in the United States and Europe sought to have hostpots in the world, specially the rich areas which can be arms.

Q: What does King Hussein envisage as a viable Arab solution to the Gulf crisis?

A: King Hussein has sought to find a solution within the Arab framework from the beginning of the crisis. King Hussein had agreed with the Egyptian president that any solution to the crisis should be within the Arab framework and that there should not be any escalation for the situation in the Gulf. He also requested President Bush to refrain from involving foreign troops. That took place on Aug. 2, but on the following day the King was surprised to see a different picture and to hear the Arab League's resolution which condemned the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait — things that were not agreed upon. The Iraqi president had laid a condition that such resolution should be issued because the Arabs can work out a satisfactory solution. But it was found out later that the Arab resolutions were in fact a cover for foreign resolutions. This complicated matters and put the Arab solution out of reach.

During his visit to Morocco, Yemen and Sudan, King Hussein had sought to have a common denominator for all resolutions and to work out with the heads of these countries an Arab solution that would put an end to military escalation. These countries suggested an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and Arab troops should be deployed there. This was to be followed by discussions over the problem and for linking the Gulf crisis with the Palestine question so that there can be permanent stability in this region.

Q: We understand from this that the King did not propose a certain formula to these countries?

A: The King did not propose any specific solution, but agreement was reached that no proposed solution should be submitted by any individual country until consensus has been reached within a collective plan can be proposed.

Q: Is there a full in Jordan's moves at present following the King's latest tour?

A: Following the King's tour, and after hearing the Iraqi views that Baghdad will not pull out its forces from Kuwait, Jordan has halted its efforts for the time being, but the King will resume contacts with other countries and heads of state to find a breakthrough in the present impasse.

But I would like to point out that Jordan's efforts had succeeded in solving two thirds of the problem after Iraq had agreed to two conditions: Setting a date for the withdrawal, and the holding of a mini-summit in Jeddah to be attended by Iraq, Saddam Hussein told the King that he would inform him of the date of withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait following a meeting by the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) and that he will start the pullout at 7 o'clock and that he will announce the withdrawal two hours later. All concerned Arab countries agreed to this. I believe that the withdrawal was demanded by the concerned Arab countries which also undertook to replace the Iraqi troops. This means that the U.S. forces were aiming to deploy at the oil fields so that Washington can reign supreme in the coming decade as a sole superpower in the face of the United Europe by 1992 which would constitute a major world power competing with the United States. Washington realises that industrial power relies on the oil from the Gulf, which holds 65 per cent of the total world reserves and realises that whoever lays his hands on the oil of this region will be able to control the fate of Europe.

It should be noted that oil found in Kuwait and Iraq forms nearly 20 per cent of the total world reserves and the United States can by no means allow Iraq to have its way. Washington fears that by occupying Kuwait Iraq is bound to abort American plans.

Q: What is Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the continued search of vessels by American warships in the Gulf of Aqaba?

A: If this continues, the Jordanian government will study lodging a complaint with the United Nations Security Council to draw attention that this search is harming the Jordanian people's interests at a time when Jordan is totally committed to the council's sanctions on Iraq. Jordan has already informed all shipping lines to refrain from transporting to Jordan except those goods bound for the Kingdom, especially those imported by the Ministry of Supply and Jordanian merchants.

Jordan is adversely affected by this unjust action although this country is boycotting Iraq and the Jordanian government considers such action as harmful to the country and in violation of the Security Council resolutions.

Q: Did Palestine president Yasser Arafat's visit to Jordan result in a Jordanian-Palestinian initiative to solve the crisis in the Gulf?

A: During Arafat's visit to Jordan discussions covered the Gulf crisis but no joint initiative was discussed. But Arafat had brought to Jordan a number of ideas to contribute to a solution.

Q: Were these ideas part of the Palestinian initiative?

A: Yes, they were.

Q: Following the latest developments and Iraq-Iran peace, were there any official contacts between Amman and Tehran?

A: Jordan has contacted the Iranian government through its U.N. representative and these contacts will continue through Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem at the United Nations. In fact Qasem planned to go to Tehran but the visit was temporarily deferred because the Jordanian government is preoccupied with the Gulf crisis. However, all these contacts aim to tackle bilateral relations.

Q: What is the Jordanian government's position vis-a-vis the difficulties and persecutions encountered by Jordanian citizens, importers and exporters when dealing with Saudi and other Gulf authorities?

A: We will be able to solve all these problems through mutual understanding because the Jordanian political stand stems from pan-Arab interests, and we are fully convinced that Jordan's pan-Arab stand is one that serves Arab interests and our Saudi brethren. We hope that the difference in the ways through which we are approaching things will not harm the Jordanian people, and we earnestly hope that such difference will not reflect on the people's interests because in that case things will be unjustifiably complicated.

Q: Are there any contacts with the Saudi government on this subject?

A: There are contacts through diplomatic means to prevent our Jordanian citizens from any suffering in transportation and movement. We have issued a circular to all border posts asking our officials there to give the Saudis the best treatment and not to offend any of them.

Q: What is the position of the Jordanian expatriates in both Jordan and Kuwait?

A: At present there are at least 100,000 expatriates from Kuwait. The

number of students admitted to government schools until five days ago was 26,000. This means that our situation is extremely difficult. However, this position will never affect our policy, which is based on our conviction that our policy serves higher Arab interests. We advise the Jordanians remaining in Kuwait to remain where they are and to continue to perform their work there because Jordan is currently suffering from unemployment, and their return to Jordan will further aggravate the problem.

Q: Does the government have any perceptions on what to do in case other Jordanians working abroad returned home?

A: We have formed teams grouping representatives for the public and private sectors, and the Lower House of Parliament to study the unemployment problem and to look into other issues such as agriculture, rationalisation of consumption, prices and the increasing numbers of evacuees. In the absence of financial resources, it is difficult to find a way out for this problem.

Q: We have learnt that the United Nations position is positive towards Jordan's request for compensation for the harm caused to its economy as a result of observing the economic embargo on Iraq. Do you believe that the expected support will cover Jordan's needs and has any amounts been allocated in this regard?

A: The study on the economic effects of the Gulf crisis on Jordan was undertaken at the outset of the crisis. Actually the harm done to Jordan by far exceeds the figure mentioned in the study presented to the U.N. At the beginning we were ready to discuss that study scientifically and objectively with the foreign parties concerned. But after thorough examination and review we found out that it was less than the actual damage or harm. In accordance with Article 50 of the U.N. Charter, we expect the U.N. compensation to meet our actual needs. The response at the U.N. level and that of Europe was encouraging, and they considered the study very precise. But there are some countries placing obstacles in the face of such assistance in view of their political stands towards Jordan.

Q: Will the amounts expected be more than the actual aid Jordan used to get, and will it be in the form of bilateral aid with individual European countries or will it be through the European Community as a group?

A: Jordan has not been promised any specific amount. The amounts expected will be coming from the EC, but so far we have not received any notification to that effect. On the other hand, the level of compensation for Jordan's loss as a result of the embargo will not reach the level of aid Jordan used to receive. It is not true that the compensation will be greater than the aid. The disruption of work in Aqaba has caused the loss of 12,000 jobs, and the disruption of land transport has led to bringing the largest land transport fleet, including 12,000 trucks, to a complete standstill and led to depriving 150,000 citizens of their basic means of living. Our factories have been badly affected since 80 per cent of their production used to be exported to Iraq, not to mention the decline of remittances from Jordanian expatriates.

Q: Are there any alternate sources to make up for the support Jordan used to get?

A: I don't think there are any other sources.

Q: What about the delay in debt servicing? Will there be any financial complication to Jordan as a result of such default?

A: The delay in servicing Jordan's foreign debts due to the current crisis will place additional burdens on Jordan. It will come up to JD170 million in the form of foreign debt interests and JD135 million for internal debt.

Q: Given the hard economic times Jordan is currently passing through, how will the government prepare its 1991 budget?

A: Frankly speaking, the preparation of the budget is our major preoccupation. We are passing through difficult circumstances and we are looking for alternatives and ways because the task of preparing the budget and presenting it is an enormous task.

Q: How do you evaluate the relation between the government and the Lower House of Parliament during the first and the extraordinary sessions?

A: Our dealing with the House was very clear and our relation was characterised by mutual confidence. Any fair observer will notice that the government has done its best to keep its promises. However, the current crisis in the Gulf prevented the government from achieving some of its objectives. The government has kept the House apprised of the developments and secret contacts. We notice that there is a consensus on the House's political line.

Q: Do you have any observations, comments on the marches organised in Jordan recently?

A: In short, I think it is time slogans and marches are translated into tangible action by directing more efforts to production, provision of food, and changing the consumption patterns which we have experienced.

Q: Are you optimistic about the future?

A: Yes, I am because the recent developments have drawn our attention to the fact that what was going on was wrong. These events will leave their impact on the whole Arab World. Countries become aware that they will not be able to live isolated from the rest of the world doing what "pleases them".

Habash: Gulf, Palestine linked

(Continued from page 1)

Habash said the PFLP supports a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis in an "Arab context." But, he said, the American troops and other international forces have not been sent to the Gulf for a "picnic," and should they attack Iraq his group was prepared to attack Western interests everywhere.

At this very moment our finger is on the trigger and if war erupts the logic of war will prevail," Habash told a packed room of journalists and audience who frequently applauded the Palestinian leader as he spoke.

The Palestinian leader said that any attempts to recolonise the region would be met with strong resistance. Expressing frustration felt by Palestinians at the hands of the Israeli occupier, Habash said: "We are not terrorists but freedom fighters... we have had enough of oppression, injustice and selective legitimacy... and we will fight and fight and fight for our rights."

On the Gulf crisis, Habash reiterated that he had not condoned Iraq's takeover of Kuwait but felt that the situation was an "internal Arab matter," which could be solved by Arabs if given a chance.

Referring to Westerners being held in Iraq, Habash said that it was the United States who pioneered the concept of civilian hostages during World War II when it confined the movement of its own citizens who were of

Japanese origin because the U.S. was at war with Japan.

The brutality of war logic, Habash said, had also been introduced by the U.S. during the war when it annihilated the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with nuclear bombs.

If international law and legitimacy could not be applied evenly then there was no use applying them at all, he said. "Arab revolutionary legitimacy would restore the Arab Order which would mean the unification of some or all of the 21 existing Arab states as well as Palestine which existed 42 years ago," Habash said.

"The oil wealth is for all the Arabs, poor and rich," said Habash, whose faction was established on the egalitarian concepts of socialist theories.

Asked about the possibility of moving the PFLP's headquarters from Damascus to Baghdad, Habash dismissed the suggestion saying that he had been invited to open an office in Baghdad but that he would not move his headquarters from the Syrian capital unless the officials there asked him to leave.

"The Arab World is large and as an Arab I feel I am free to move as I wish within its boundaries and I have no intention of leaving Syria unless I am asked to do so," he said, denying agency reports which had made a PFLP headquarters move to Baghdad a "fait accompli" several weeks back.

Iraq says oil could hit \$50m

(Continued from page 1)

could only be sustained at the expense of the oil fields," he said, adding that pumping at full stretch could damage both the fields and production facilities.

Chalabi said Iraq has exported no oil since the embargo, no country was selling oil on Baghdad's behalf and production had dropped to between 300,000 and 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) to cover the needs of Iraqi refineries.

Before Aug. 2, Iraq produced 3.1 million bpd, the quota set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Moscow, Tehran differ on means for Gulf peace

TEHRAN (R) — Iranian and Soviet deputy foreign ministers, discussing the Gulf crisis in Tehran, called on Tuesday for a peaceful solution but appeared to differ on the way to achieve it.

Tehran Radio said the Soviet Union's Alexander Belonogov viewed U.N. sanctions as the main weapon to end the crisis sparked by Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait.

But Iran's Mahmoud Vaezi stressed the need for an American withdrawal from the Gulf.

"We believe the United States and Iraq should withdraw from the region and Kuwait respectively for a peaceful solution to the crisis," the radio quoted Vaezi as saying.

"Regional countries... are capable of ending the crisis and guaranteeing future peace and security of the region," he added.

Moscow, siding with Washington for the first time in a regional crisis, has generally approved of the U.S. military intervention but has not sent troops to the Gulf.

Belonogov, whose country was Baghdad's biggest arms supplier during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, called the invasion of Kuwait "a big strategic mistake."

"U.N. economic embargo resolutions are considered to be the means for a peaceful solution to the crisis and the sanctions can of course be tightened," Tehran Radio quoted him as saying.

Tehran has repeatedly said it would abide by the sanctions.

U.S. President George Bush said Monday he had no reason to question Iranian compliance despite press reports of a food-for-oil deal between Tehran and Baghdad.

Belonogov arrived in Tehran Monday to discuss the Gulf crisis on a previously unannounced visit.

The Soviet news agency TASS quoted Belonogov as saying there was "an urgent need to discuss this problem with Iran, a country with considerable weight in the region."

The Soviet Communist Party daily Pravda suggested Tuesday that Iran stood most to gain if the crisis intensified, and particularly from any conflict between Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

"Any kind of large clash between Iraq and Saudi Arabia would leave these two regional rivals of Tehran paralysed," Pravda said. "Whatever the outcome, they would be weakened and Iran would emerge as the only regional superpower."

The Gulf crisis accelerated a Moscow-Riyadh rapprochement, leading to the announcement Monday of restoration of diplomatic relations after more than 50 years.

Tehran Radio commented Tuesday that the move served in part to "conceal Saudi Arabia's excessive dependence on the United States" at a time when more than 100,000 American soldiers were on Saudi soil.

Iraq to allow India to distribute food

NEW DELHI (R) — Iraq will allow Indian officials and the Indian Red Cross to distribute food and medical supplies to people stranded in Kuwait and Iraq, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

"(Distribution) will be done by our embassy officials in Iraq and the Indian Red Cross," the spokesman said. "This method conforms to U.N. resolutions and what is acceptable to the Iraqi government."

The Iraqi government told the Indian embassy in Baghdad that no foreign or international relief agencies should be involved, the Press Trust of India news agency said in a report from Bahrain Tuesday.

The spokesman said the Iraqi government would not get involved in the relief effort. "They are not concerned. They have left it entirely to us and the Red Cross."

An Indian cargo ship, the Vishwa Siddhi, carrying nearly 10,000 tonnes of food and 1,200 tonnes of medicine is likely to arrive at

Umm Qasr port near the southern Iraqi city of Basra Sunday.

The ship also carries an 11-member team from the Indian Red Cross Society, including two doctors and two nurses.

The spokesman said the food would be distributed to any hungry foreigner, not just the estimated 130,000 Indians still stranded in Kuwait and Iraq.

Indian firms with offices in Iraq will also help distribute food and medicine to foreigners trapped in the Iraqi countryside, he said.

Senior Indian officials decried the voyage of the Vishwa Siddhi as a test case for all concerned.

It will be the first shipment allowed through the naval blockade enforcing stringent United Nations sanctions against Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

India won U.N. permission to send the ship in the face of strong opposition from the United States and Britain, both permanent members of the Security Council.

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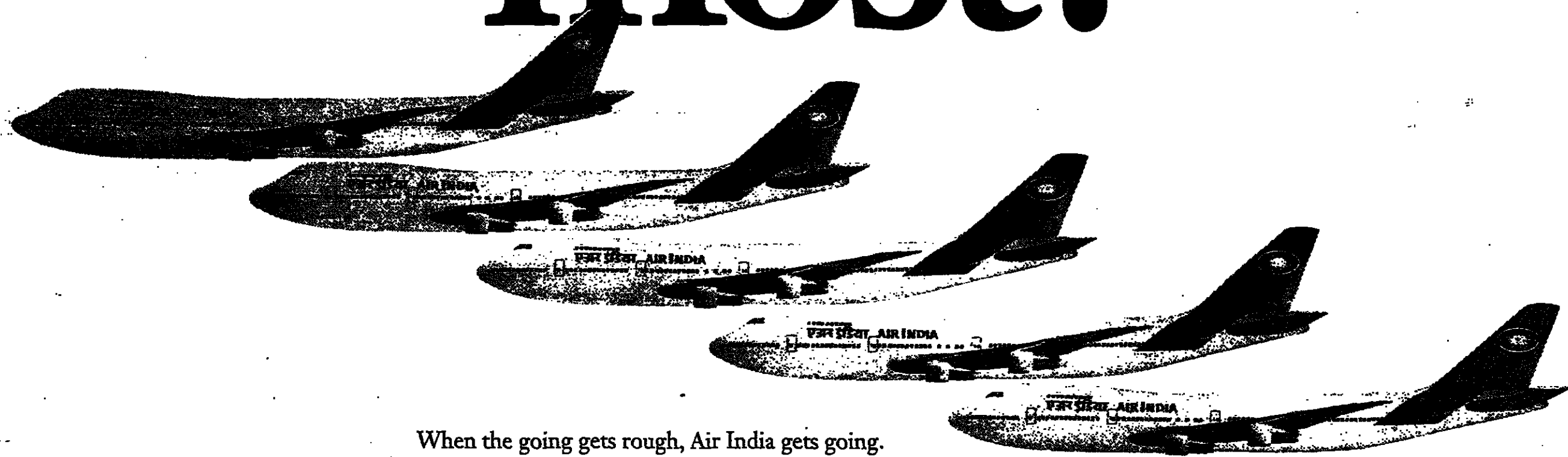
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Atlanta to host 1996 Olympics

TOKYO (AP) — Atlanta brought the Olympics to the southern United States Tuesday, winning a come-from-behind race over Athens and four other rivals to host the 1996 summer games.

It took an intense effort to beat the sentimental favorite from Greece.

The victory in voting by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) means that the 100th birthday of the modern Olympics will be staged in one of the world's most modern cities and take the games into their second century on a high-tech, big-money road.

The decision, read from a sealed ballot by IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch, ended the hopes of Athens to stage the '96 games in the country where the Olympics were born in 776 B.C. and were reincarnated in 1896.

Atlanta had entered the final days of the four-year contest generally rated among the front-runners. It received a boost in its formal presentation with a videotaped appeal by U.S. President George Bush.

It caught Athens on the third of the maximum five ballots, took the lead on the fourth and won it 51-35 as it picked up most of the 22 votes Toronto had on the previous round.

Other runners-up, in order of their elimination, were Belgrade, Manchester, and Melbourne.

Atlanta is world headquarters of Coca-Cola, one of the Olympics' biggest sponsors. It is the home of U.S.-style professional football, baseball and basketball teams, prestigious universities large and small, and the grassroots of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement.

It's Gone With the Wind and Stone Mountain, catfish and CNN.

And now, it's also an Olympic city.

It joined Los Angeles and St. Louis as U.S. Olympic hosts, Los Angeles staging the games in 1932 and 1984 and St. Louis in 1904. The '84 games ushered in an era of unimaginable money for the IOC. They announced last week the Olympic Movement would make \$1.84 billion in the four years leading up to 1992, not bad for an organization that was almost broke a decade ago.

With solid facilities built or planned, impeccable hotels, and infrastructure and glowing reports from various evaluation

commissions, the IOC decided to go for the gold again.

"The IOC awards the 1996 Olympic Games to the city of Atlanta," Samaranch said.

The Atlanta delegation, led by chief organizer Billy Payne, appeared overcome by joy. Payne had left the session room in tears after presenting Atlanta's final report earlier in the day.

The conference hall erupted in cheers.

Athens held a narrow lead in the first round and never was able to substantially build on it. It had 23 votes as opposed to 19 for Atlanta, 14 for Toronto, 12 for Melbourne, 11 for Manchester and seven for Belgrade.

On the second round, Manchester was gone with just five votes. Athens stayed at 23, and Atlanta fell to third with 20 votes to 21 for Melbourne, trying to become only the second southern hemisphere host.

The games were held in Melbourne in 1956. Toronto had 17 votes on the second ballot.

The third ballot was the key. Athens and Atlanta tied 26-26, and Melbourne, whose strong technical bid with the added push of the southern hemisphere no longer able to carry it, dropped out with 16. Toronto had 18.

Atlanta pulled into the lead on the fourth ballot, 34-30, and Toronto was eliminated. It was then a matter of supporters of one North American city switching the majority of their votes to another, and Atlanta was in.

Members voted with pen and paper, with a different color ballot on each round. The low vote-getter was eliminated each round until the winner was chosen. Members knew the results of the previous round before their next ballots were cast.

This contest was among six big cities with plenty of experience hosting major sports events. The decision had immense possibilities no matter where the IOC members turned, and that responsibility seemed to weigh on them as the long day of hour-long presentations continued.

"I thought the IOC members looked very troubled. They have a big decision," said Bob Scott, head of the Manchester bid, which was the last of the six to present its case. "I think they realize that for the first time they had an abundance of good choices. There was a somber mood."

Greece was the birthplace of the Olympics, and staged their rebirth a century ago. Athens had good facilities, and it certainly had history on its side.

"We have sent the torch away 25 times in 100 years. We are only asking for it once," Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis told the members.

But did chief Spyros Metaxas had upset some IOC members when he said recently that "morally, the games belong to us." The Greeks also were accused of arrogance and flouting the rules of the bidding.

Atlanta had started the race as a longshot but turned into one of the favorites in recent months. The IOC's own evaluation commission gave it high marks for stadiums, planning, organization, hotels and infrastructure, and the appeal was increased by the possibility of big money from television networks for a games that would have starting times made to order for lucrative U.S. east coast "prime time" TV audience.

When the announcement was made, Mayor Maynard Jackson of Atlanta, who made one of the presentation speeches, held his hands in prayer. Over in the Athens section, there were tears all around.

Exiled King Constantine of Greece, an IOC member, said he was "deeply disappointed along with all Greeks that the centenary games were not awarded to Athens."

"But we must bow to the democratic process of the IOC and I congratulate the winner on its successful election," said Constantine, who had campaigned hard for Athens. He would have been able to return to his country for the games.

Fireworks, cheers in Atlanta

Fireworks and balloons filled the morning sky over Atlanta Tuesday when the IOC announced the city will be the site of the 1996 summer Olympics.

Thousands of people gathered at underground Atlanta for an Olympic party, shouted with joy when they heard the announcement over huge televisions broadcasting the IOC meeting live from Tokyo.

Bright orange and green fireworks lit the sky even though the sun had already risen when the announcement came about 7:50

a.m. EDT (11:50 GMT). The boom of the fireworks could be heard throughout the downtown area. A band played the Olympic theme, and strangers hugged each other.

"I am absolutely amazed. I can't believe Atlanta has gone from a place nobody thought had a chance to really getting those games," said Michael Lomax, chairman of the Fulton County Commission.

"It made me feel I was making the Olympic team again," said Evander Holyfield, the former Olympic boxer who is from Atlanta.

"This was exciting. This was unbelievable," said Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson, speaking at a news conference in Tokyo just after the vote. "This proves that if you don't run the race you don't have a chance to win."

Within seconds after the announcement in Atlanta, crowds were six deep at an Atlanta Organising Committee (AOC) cart selling T-shirts and hats with the city's Olympic logo.

"This is just unbelievable. We should sell out of everything in the next 10 minutes," said Glenn Stewart, merchandising coordinator for the AOC.

In the minutes before the announcement, the crowd alternated between nervous silence and good-natured jeers as Samaranch fumbled with the card holding the name of the host city.

"I wanted this so bad," said Janice Stockard of suburban Decatur. "I wanted it because Atlanta's great. This means a lot. We got the super bowl (the U.S. pro football championship in 1994) and now we got the Olympics."

"I will be there," said Cynthia Hill, a downtown worker from suburban Senoia. "I've been here all my life and I'm going to the games. I'm very excited about it. I didn't have any doubts."

Before the announcement, thousands milled about the underground Atlanta Plaza watching the televised proceedings from Tokyo and hoping for the best.

"We've always been a can-do city," said Ed Novotny of Atlanta, who came to the festivities on his way to work. Novotny, who grew up in Atlanta, said he came back to the city precisely because of Atlanta's spirit.

"Atlanta has a character all its own. We're dreamers and workers," he said.

Luyendijk seeks to become number 2

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AP) — Five months ago, Arie Luyendijk was just another driver trying to shake a string of bad luck on the Indy-Car Circuit and find a way to get into the winner's circle.

May 27 changed all that.

In his 76th career start, Luyendijk, who turns 37 Friday, finally won his first race. It happened to be the Indianapolis 500, the most famous auto race in the United States.

"I'm not from this country, but I know the magnitude of the achievement," Luyendijk, a native of the Netherlands who recently moved to Scottsdale, Arizona.

"It's not just another race," he said. "It's a race with great history. A lot of drivers who have won this race have been my heroes — guys like Emerson Fittipaldi, Mario Andretti, Jimmy Clark, Graham Hill."

"When I started in this sport, my first goal was just to drive Indy cars someday. The next goal

was to win a race... I never expected it would be the Indy 500."

Luyendijk, who had never finished higher than seventh at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway before, overtook Bobby Rahal on lap no. 168 and held on for a record \$1.1-million winner's share of the \$6.3-million purse.

"I had 32 laps to go and I was thinking, 'You've got to go for another 20 minutes or so. You've got to maintain.' It didn't make me nervous and I never thought of something breaking on the car because the thing ran like clockwork the whole day," Luyendijk said.

"I remember crossing the finish line and yelling out a big 'yahoo.' I wasn't shocked. Even before the race, I felt good."

"I was definitely the underdog at Indy, which was fine with me. The media wasn't all over me before the race."

Since his victory, Luyendijk has done at least one interview a

week and is bracing for a media onslaught when he returns to Holland at the end of this month.

Although Luyendijk said few of the Dutch understand how big a win at Indy is, one person in particular who does is his 68-year-old father, Jaap, who started racing at age 33 in South Africa and is a former European Formula Vee champion.

Arie said he didn't get the bug until 1972 when his brother-in-law invited him to go to a racing school.

"He bought a car and suggested I share it with him at the

school. I was interested, but I wasn't that excited at first," said Luyendijk. "I got in and I went fast and I got hooked on it. I had no fear."

Luyendijk won the European Formula Ford championship in 1975 and the European Super Vee title in 1977.

After winning the U.S. Super Vee series in 1984, he made the jump to Indy Cars. That also started his bad-luck streak, including a pit fire at the 1988 Autoworks 200 at Phoenix International Raceway after he had led for the first 33 laps.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH
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SCUTTling A SLAM

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A 7 6 5 2
♥ J 6 3
♦ 8
♣ A 7 6 2

EAST
♠ K 10 4 3
♥ 8 5
♦ Q 6 5 4
♣ K J 9

SOUTH
♠ Q 9
♥ A K Q 9 2
♦ A 9 2
♣ Q 8 3

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 NT Pass
4 ♦ Dbl Rdbl Pass
6 ♣ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of Spades.

This hand from the recent Vanderbilt Team Championship, the major event of the ACBL's Spring North American Championship in Fort Worth, Texas, is replete with interest, both in the bidding and play.

Since North-South were playing 15-17 point no trump openings, South judged his hand as too strong for that action. North's jump to four diamonds showed a singleton in that suit and confirmed hearts as trumps. East doubled to suggest a possible lead, or sacrifice if West

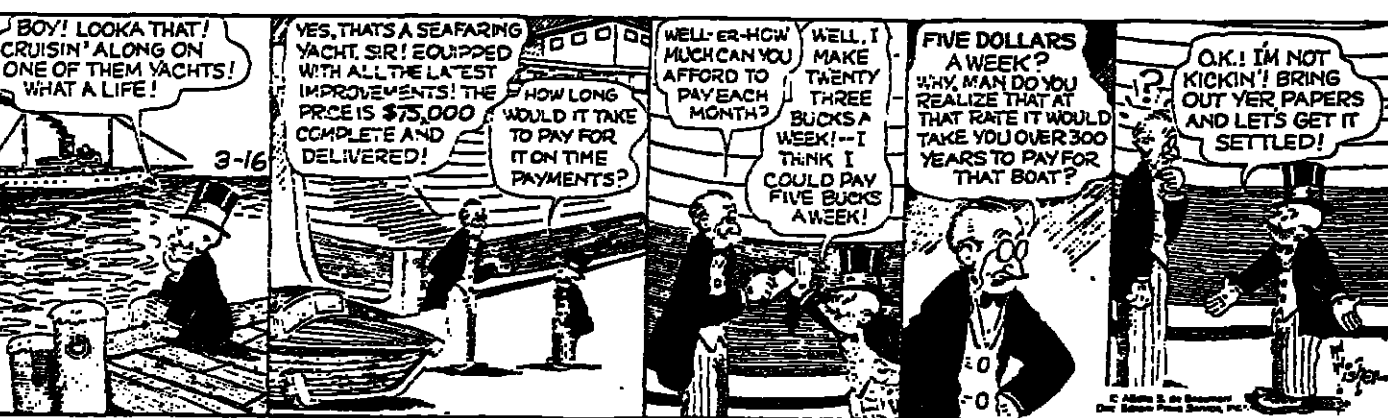
also had length in diamonds, and South's redouble indicated the ace. With first-round control of both black suits, North bravely leaped to slam, and West decided he had sufficient defensive values to defend rather than save in seven diamonds.

On the opening lead of a low diamond, East, Norman Kay of Narberth, Pa., made the discovery play of the ten, losing to the ace. Declarer ruffed a diamond and led a low spade from dummy. When East followed with the eight, declarer decided West probably held the king, so the nine was finessed, taken by the ten.

Sitting West was Brian Glubok of New York, and he found a spectacular defense—he returned the king of clubs! That gave declarer an extra club trick, but removed a critical entry to the table's spades. At the end, declarer had to surrender a club trick for down one.

Had West defended passively by, say, continuing diamonds, declarer can get home. Declarer ruffs in dummy, draws trumps and then runs the queen of spades, which West must duck. When declarer cashes the remaining trumps, West is down to king and one in each black suit, while there is ace and one in both on the board. No matter which suit West discards on the last trump, the other is pitched from dummy and declarer can make the rest. Try it.

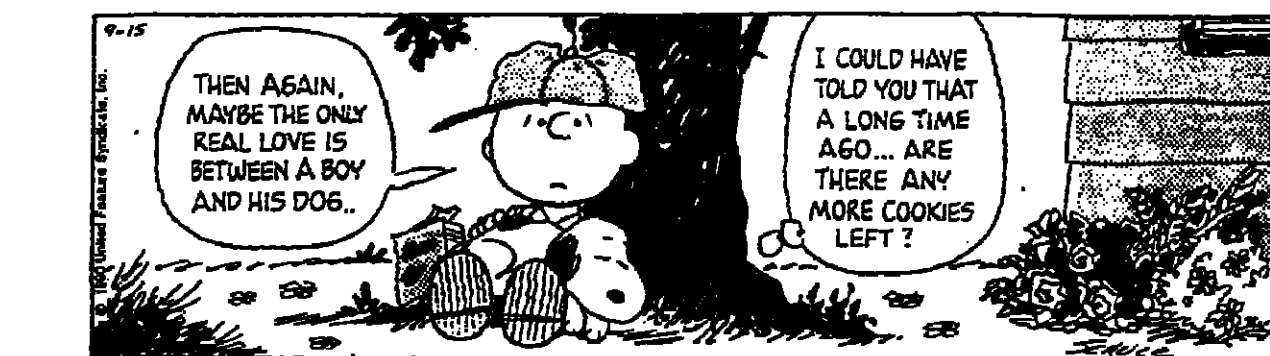
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



European soccer:

Maradona determined to overcome pain, play

Reuter

DIEGO Maradona, suffering from acute lumbago, is determined to do all he can to ignore his back pains and play for Napoli in their opening European Cup soccer match Wednesday.

"I am not well but I will do everything I can not to miss the match," the headline in an Italian sports newspaper Tuesday reported the Argentine World Cup captain as saying.

The Italian champions, beaten in his absence at home in the league for the first time in 17 months Sunday, should overcome Hungary's Ujpest Dozsa in the first-round first-leg tie but Maradona holds the key to all their dreams.

"We are waiting for him, our little one," Napoli coach Alberto Bigon said. "We will be able to talk about the European Cup only when we are certain that Diego will play."

"Somehow, I don't know how, he'll make it."

"I really think I'll make it," Maradona said after Napoli's 2-1 defeat by newly-promoted Cagliari Sunday. He trained for the first time in nine days Monday but moved little.

However, the Napoli doctor said Maradona was getting better fast and he is known for playing despite injury — something he has done many times, not least during the World Cup.

Seven of a record eight Italian teams will be in action. European Cup holders AC Milan have a bye into the second round.

Maradona's brother Hugo has less local pressure on him at Austria's Rapid Vienna, who entertain AC Milan's powerful rivals Internazionale in a UEFA Cup first-round match in Vienna.

Cup Winners' Cup holders Sampdoria of Italy travel to West Germany's injury-hit Kaiserslautern with their own star striker Gianluca Vialli not match-fit but a likely starter.

Kaiserslautern, playing their first European club match for seven years, have striker and captain Stefan Kuntz doubtful because of a knee injury while midfielder Rainer Ernst may also not be allowed to play because of a thigh problem.

West German champions Bayern Munich, who play Apollon Nicosia of Cyprus, have called up 19-year-old goalkeeper Sven Schuster because Raimond Aumann has a stomach muscle strain.

World Cup defender Stefan Reuter, sent off in a league match at the weekend for throwing a punch, is expected to play.

But his 29-year-old international team mate Uwe Bein has been forced out of Eintracht Frankfurt's UEFA Cup away tie with Danish club Brondby because of a thigh injury.

Spanish champions Real Madrid play Odense in Denmark without striker Emilio Butragueno who has a calf injury.



Diego Maradona

Romanian midfielder Gheorghe Hagi has a bruised right leg but is expected to play. But it is the real defence that is really vulnerable with Yugoslav World Cup player Predrag Spasic ineligible for the match due to the lateness of his signing.

Spanish international defenders Manuel Sanchis and Fernando Hierro are both still suspended from last season.

UEFA Cup champions Juventus are not defending their title and play in the Cup Winners' Cup against Sliven of Bulgaria. Coach Gigi Maifredi is confident his hugely expensive team will finally prove to the fans that the money was well spent.

Outside Italy, all eyes will be on the return of English clubs to European competition after a five-year ban imposed after fans rioted and killed 39 people at the European Cup final in Brussels in 1985 between Liverpool and Juventus.

Aston Villa and Manchester United play the matches at home in the UEFA Cup and Cup Winners' Cup respectively against Banik Ostrava of Czechoslovakia and Pecsi Munkacs of Hungary.

United, thrashed 4-0 by Liverpool at Anfield on Sunday, may drop former Barcelona striker Mark Hughes in favour of local boy Mark Robins, who has scored three goals this season.

In France, league champions Marseille start the European Cup campaign at home against Dinamo Tirana of Albania.

Now under Franz Beckenbauer, former coach of World Cup winners West Germany, Marseille have lost two key defenders — France's suspended Basile Boli and injured Eric di Meo.

Romanian World Cup played Gheorghe Popescu, a key figure in midfield for PSV Eindhoven, hopes to be fit in time for Thursday's Cup Winners' Cup tie against Montpellier in France.

He missed last Sunday's 1-1 Dutch league draw at Feyenoord Rotterdam due to a groin strain. But PSV's Brazilian striker Romario will play despite a calf injury.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The mixed aspects today require that you not allow a dishonest person to pull the wool over your eyes or any 4 your associates who are only dealing with the positive side.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is the day when tensions between a usual companion and one from a distance can be very evident and require much care to successfully sidestep.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Changes in any situation which concerns you of a financial nature is bound to involve other persons so make a point to uncover their motives.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A concentrated mental partner would hold you down to some agreement made unless you jump the gun and do it before that person can remind you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You are torn between spending time mending some broken fences from the past or building some new ones but put time in wisely on both.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A personal goal and a special creative aim clash for your time and attention and you would be wise to solve by deciding, doing one most vital to your welfare.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Responsibilities at vocational or the side duties can affect you more

than you imagine today so make a point to concentrate on outside promises made.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Make sure that you communicate with those far off as they have some helpful response if you do not loiter over activities that can be considered.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Keep your attention on your own way of increasing your assets and put off suggestions made by an expert that requires considerable investigation.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You want to do everything in your power to get a flighty person to calm down and go along with a well marked plan you have initiated.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have some annoying problem that is bothering you and you would be wise to solve it and get this in back of you, then you can focus upon doing your work.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A long time supporter has a course of action for you to take of a personal nature which is just right for solving this multifaceted issue.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are very tied down to some home condition which should first be taken into consideration before going to problems in the outside world.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"When I met you, you were slim and had great hair. I could sue you for false advertising!"

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GYMAN

PROOD

NULRUY

MYTIES

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

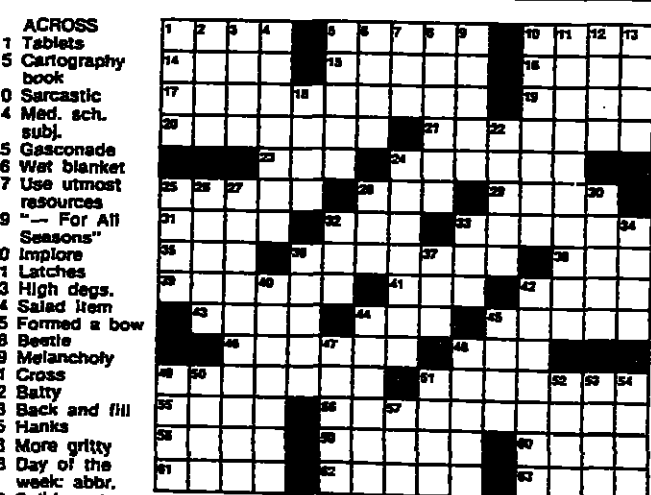
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HABIT LIMIT TALKER LEGACY

Answer: What his inability to tell the truth might be — A "LIE-ABILITY"

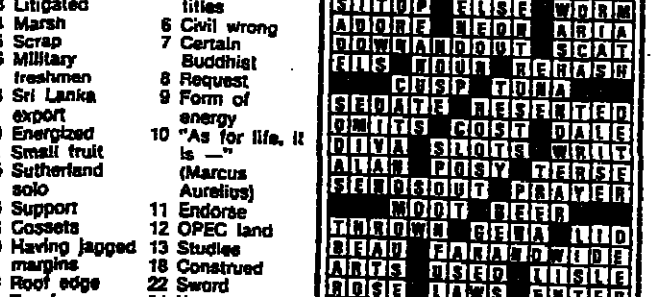
THE Daily Crossword

by Dorothy B. Martin



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Saturday's Puzzle Solved:



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World oil prices hit 9-year highs

LONDON (R) — World oil prices hit nine year highs on Tuesday as the first significant effects of lost Kuwaiti and Iraqi oil hit the markets, traders said.

November futures for the world benchmark crude, Brent Blend, rose 90 cents from Monday's close to reach \$33.90 a barrel.

Spot prices for "prompt" North Sea oil — oil for use in the next few days — reached \$36.50.

Despite later falls on profit-taking, prices for all types of oil are now at their highest since December 1981.

"People are scrambling in panic to buy physical cargoes," said Philip Lambert, analyst with Kleinwort Benson.

Analysts say the problem is simple. Six weeks after the Iraqi invasion, refiners of Kuwaiti oil and world consumers are feeling the first serious impact of the lost supply.

"There is about a six-week sailing time from the Gulf and the shortage is beginning to develop," said London Energy Economist Geoff Pyne of UBS Phillips and Drew.

"The lost production is hitting the shores. Traders have known about it for some time, but it's only now happening," Lambert agreed.

Fear of a Gulf war is at the back of everyone's mind, analysts say.

"Almost all oil traders believe war is likely," Pyne said.

A statement by Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi that the economic siege of Iraq would drive oil prices to \$50 added to the bullish mood, traders said.

Chalabi gave no time-table for the price rise.

"Prices will continue to go up and up and up because there is no way of replacing Iraqi oil in the long run," he said.

Analysts generally agree with this view.

Good quality oil from Iraq and Kuwait has mostly been replaced by heavier, dirtier crude from Venezuela and Saudi Arabia.

Turkey seeks textile export spinoff from crisis in Gulf

ANKARA (R) — Turkey is seeking substantial rises in quotas for textile exports to the United States and the European Community (EC) to help recoup economic losses from its defiant stand against Iraq, industry officials said Tuesday.

In line with official policy of trade, not aid to help Turkey offset losses from economic sanctions against Baghdad, textile manufacturers are pressing for a 100 per cent increase in U.S. quota limits and 50 per cent for the EC, the officials said.

"We have asked government officials to insist on these levels," Hasan Arat, head of the Association of Turkish Textile Industrialists (GSD), told Reuters.

"If Turkey can win a rise by as much as we are seeking, we can generate an extra \$2.5 billion in revenue," he said.

Textiles comprise a major element of Turkish exports. They were worth \$3.20 billion last year, nearly one-third of total exports valued at \$11.62 billion. About 77 per cent of Turkey's total textile exports went to the EC and 11 per cent to the United States last year, the GSD said.

Turkey, the only NATO country bordering Iraq, stands to lose

up to \$7 billion a year since it joined U.N. sanctions against Iraq, which in 1989 was its biggest single trading partner after West Germany.

"We don't want more aid to help cover our losses from sanctions. We want more trade with our Western counterparts," a senior treasury official told reporters.

Officials said Turkey would discuss increased textile quotas at meetings with the EC and the U.S. next month.

"There has already been some European diplomatic traffic on textile quotas for Turkey but no figures have been mentioned," a Western diplomat said.

Another diplomat said: "The subject is very delicate and normally the answer from both the U.S. and the EC would be no way. But in the light of what Turkey is doing with sanctions, something may be possible."

Turkish officials gave no details of how they wanted any increased quotas to be broken down.

Current annual quotas for exports to the EC include 51 million T-shirts, 127 million pairs of socks and 26.5 million units of knitted underwear, the GSD said.

Quotas for exports to the United States include 17.5 million T-shirts and 300,000 pairs of trousers, it added.

Turkey has been an associate EC member since 1963. Brussels last November postponed until 1993 at the earliest any formal talks on Turkey's 1987 application for full membership.

The EC executive commission proposed in June to resuscitate plans for a customs union between the EC and Turkey by 1995.

Such a union would include removal of all quotas gradually by 1995 in line with Turkey phasing out tariffs on EC goods.

Officials said Turkey and the EC would discuss textiles in Ankara on Oct. 19-25 and that talks with the United States were also scheduled for next month.

"We hope we will have more favourable conditions on the negotiating table when we arrive in Washington next month," a treasury official said.

"Turkey has a comparative advantage in the textile sector over many other countries. But quotas limit our exports by at least 50 per cent. That means we sell 50 per cent less than we can," Turkish textile exporter Cengiz Demirtas told Reuters.

U.S. trade deficit jumps dramatic 75 per cent

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. trade deficit soared by 75 per cent in July to \$9.33 billion — the biggest monthly gap between exports and imports since January — from a revised \$5.34 billion in June, the government said Tuesday.

The oil import bill rose 7.9 per cent to \$3.96 billion in July, but that was mostly because of an 8.9 per cent jump in the volume of oil imports to 274 million barrels. Prices of crude and refined oil imports actually declined.

The cost of imported oil should rise sharply in the coming months of trade data, adding to the U.S. deficit, because of the surge in world prices triggered by the Middle East crisis.

Despite the wider July trade gap, the deficit through the first seven months of this year was running at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$95 billion, significantly below the \$109.4 billion shortfall of 1989, the government said. June's trade deficit was revised up from a previously reported seasonally adjusted \$5.07 billion.

The trade gap has been narrowing since 1987 when it hit a record \$152 billion. The shortfall between U.S. exports and imports for all of 1989 fell to \$109.4 billion from \$118.53 billion in 1988.

The government said much of the reason for the wider July trade gap was a jump in imports of consumer goods, industrial supplies and automobiles and parts, as exports of manufactured goods and agricultural products declined.

Officials said aircraft exports were about \$300 million less in July than in June.

Meanwhile, the sharp jump in energy prices since Iraq invaded Kuwait pushed the consumer price index up 0.8 per cent in August, double its July 0.4 per cent advance, the Labour Department said.

Gulf crisis dries up money market

DUBAI (R) — The exodus of cash from Gulf banks that followed the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait has ebbed but that lost money is not being replaced, Gulf bankers said.

Analysts estimate that at least \$10 billion has flowed out of the Gulf and into Western banks and financial houses, and that \$6 billion may have left Saudi Arabia's banking system alone.

Retail, corporate and money market bankers polled by Reuters all said their market had been severely — in some cases critically — damaged by the Gulf crisis.

In Bahrain, the foreign bank centre of the Gulf, some dealers questioned its ability to survive the shock.

Foreign banks, particularly Japanese banks, wanted nothing to do with investing in or even taking money from the Gulf.

"It's a bad situation," one leading Bahrain money broker said. "You have to question whether there is going to be a market here at all if this continues for long."

The broker said there was no liquidity in the money market which usually bustles with the job of recycling petro-dollars from the Gulf states back into foreign currency-denominated bonds and instruments in Europe, Japan and the United States.

Banks are unwilling to use the money market while local investors are holding on to their cash or putting it in very short-term deposits.

"There is not enough liquidity

and the banks don't feel confident enough to lend long," the money dealer said. "The Japanese are the worst offenders."

Officials at Bahrain's central bank, the Bahrain Monetary Agency, were not able to comment on the market's problems.

Abdullah Saudi, president of the Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corporation, has said his institution — the Arab World's largest international bank — had lost \$1.4 billion, or more than 10 per cent of its deposits, by the end of August.

Traders in the region echoed bankers' complaints about foreign banks and said commodity brokers were finding it difficult to have letters of credit accepted.

Dealers said some leading Gulf monetary authorities were so appalled at the lack of faith shown in their economies that they were blacklisting some banks and refusing to deal with them. But that was difficult to do with the powerful Japanese banks, they added.

In the Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh, dealers said liquidity was being maintained naturally because of the huge flows of dollars into the system from oil sales and the much larger size of its economy compared with other Gulf states.

Riyadh dealers said investors were moving strongly towards short-term securities and unwilling to tie their money up.

"They are keeping to shorter term debt instruments so they can

move fast if they have to and are not tied down," one said.

Retail banks dealing with individuals and business customers reported that a similar trend had developed following the huge rush on cash after the invasion.

One official from an Arab-owned bank in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) said deposits had dried up. Individuals were instead converting cash into travellers cheques or remitting it to offshore accounts.

Foreign-owned banks have been heavily advertising U.S.-dollar denominated accounts and offshore savings.

Officials in the UAE have said total deposits in the banking sector fell as much as 10 billion dirhams (\$2.7 billion) in the first two weeks after the Iraqi takeover from 67.5 billion (\$18.35 billion) at the beginning of August.

A fall in private deposits has been offset by a rise in government lodgings with banks. Government deposits rose to 9.6 billion dirhams (\$2.6 billion) in mid-August from 6.4 billion (\$1.7 billion) at the end of March.

Foreign bankers in the UAE said businesses and some investors prepared to take high risks were quietly returning along with expatriates. But most customers were looking to remit money rather than keep it in the Gulf.

"We are receiving some new deposits," said an executive of one foreign bank. "It is very quiet at this time of the year anyway but it is certainly even quieter than normal."

Tokyo stock prices hit new low

TOKYO (R) — Climbing interest rates, soaring oil prices and a perception that the U.S. economy is headed for recession drove most Asian stock markets lower Tuesday, with Tokyo's Nikkei index slumping to a 1990 traded low.

The U.S. dollar ended stronger than Monday's New York close because of corrective buying and falls in Tokyo share and bond prices, dealers said.

The Nikkei index of 225 Tokyo stocks sank to a new traded low for 1990 of 23,303.31 points in early afternoon trading before buying by Japan's big four

brokerages helped it recover. The Nikkei closed down 430.78 points, or 1.97 per cent, at 23,884.82 after having fallen 1,056.69 points earlier in the day. It fell 531.86 points Monday.

"Oil prices are causing fears of inflation, which is driving up interest rates and making stagflation likely," said Tetsuya Fukami, head of equities at Shearson Lehman Hutton Asia. "We're stuck in a vicious circle."

The dollar, boosted by stop-loss buying by Singapore dealers, ended one yen higher than its New York close at 137.68 yen and 1.5550 marks. It ended at 136.55 and 1.5485 in New York.

Markets were still watching for

any signs of easing tension in the Middle East, but traders said they saw little chance of a reversal in the trend of rising oil prices that followed Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

November Brent crude oil prices closed higher in the Far East Tuesday at \$33.50 against \$30.85 a day earlier.

Taiwan stocks closed lower because of losses in the Tokyo market and vague rumours that fighting had erupted in the Gulf, dealers said. The index lost 104.86 points, or 3.09 per cent, to close at 3,291.65.

Hong Kong stocks also fell, with the Hang Seng index closing 23.21 points lower at 2,996.66.

Soviet Communist Party tries capitalism to replenish coffers

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Communist Party, facing a massive budget shortfall, has turned to a fresh source of revenue — capitalism.

Deputy party business manager Nikolai Kopanets told Pravda reduced dues and declining membership had left the once all-powerful political machine staring at a possible budget deficit of 1.5 billion roubles (\$2.65 billion) at the official rate of exchange.

And he urged all good communists to go out and make some

money. "The party committees should actively enter into business... set up joint enterprises, including ones with foreign partners, create associations and finance those economic projects that would give the most speedy and effective revenue," Kopanets told the party daily newspaper.

At the party congress last July, delegates voted to reduce mandatory dues payments from three to two per cent of annual salaries. Falling membership, in the face

of legalised opposition and frustration with hidebound party policy, has also depleted the communists' coffers. By July, some 130,000 of the party's approximately 18 million members had quit.

Tougher tax regulations have also taken a bite out of the party's resources.

But the article said the party had a reserve fund valued just before the July congress at 4.9 billion roubles (\$7.8 billion).

Kuwait Airways prepares to fly again

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Kuwait's national airline has moved its headquarters to Cairo and will start operating from the Egyptian capital next month, a Kuwait Airways official said Tuesday.

Abdul Razzak Al Otaki, manager of the Egyptian office, said eight Boeing planes which were outside Kuwait when Iraqi troops invaded his country will be used in the Cairo-based operation.

"The main goal is to keep the Kuwaiti flag flying in foreign capitals and countries," Al Otaki told the Associated Press.

Iraq Monday ordered the dissolution of Kuwait Airways and transferred all its assets to the government-run Iraqi Airways. Baghdad also dissolved all offices of the Kuwaiti flagship air carrier abroad and dismissed its personnel.

Soviets near joining IMF, World Bank

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union, seeking foreign aid to help save its economy from collapse, is moving closer to joining what it once regarded as a tool of "Western imperialism" — the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

A 15-man Soviet delegation will attend the Sept. 19-24 IMF/World Bank meeting in Washington and many Western diplomats see its presence as the first step toward eventual membership.

Such a move is strongly recommended in a radical Soviet economic reform plan, currently being debated by parliament and likely to be adopted this month despite opposition from a rival government programme.

The plan, drawn up by economist Stanislav Shatalin and backed by President Mikhail Gorbachev, calls for efforts to attract foreign capital and secure long-term credit at preferential rates.

A copy, obtained by Reuters, says: "We must enter the various international economic organisations as soon as possible, above all the IMF and the World Bank. This will at once raise the foreign economic status of the country."

It proposes starting talks in October with Western countries and multinational agencies. Better trade relations with all countries are called for, including those previously shunned for political reasons such as Israel and South Africa.

The West wants to encourage Soviet moves towards a market system. U.S. President George Bush recommended the closest possible economic cooperation with Moscow at this month's superpower summit in Helsinki.

Officials in Washington still maintain that talk of Soviet membership of the IMF or World Bank is premature and monetary sources say there has been no formal Soviet application yet. But it has not been ruled out for the future.

World Bank President Barber Conable told Reuters last month that Moscow was probably on its way to joining but had much work to do. "The Soviets have to go through quite a bit before they become members," he said.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said in July that the time was right for his country to join the IMF.

"Our country regards its membership of the IMF as a logical continuation of its policy of wider involvement in global economic cooperation," he told visiting IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus.

Viktor Rakov, chief currency expert at the Soviet central bank, said the country could get credits of up to \$12 billion over three years to help its economic reforms if it joined the IMF.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, September 18, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	126.1	126.9
U.S. dollar	657.0	661.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	477.0	479.9
Pound Sterling	1253.0	1260.5	Dutch guilder	374.7	376.9
Deutsche mark	422.4	424.9	Swedish crown	115.0	115.7
Swiss franc	511.5	514.6	Italian lire (for 100)	256.6	256.9
			Belgian franc (for 10)	205.6	206.8

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.9120/30	U.S. dollar	1.1580/85
One U.S. dollar	1.5540/47	Canadian dollar	1.7515/25
	1.2870/80	Deutsche marks	1.2870/80
	31.9532/00	Dutch guilders	1.2870/80
	5.2030/80	Swiss francs	1.1631/64
	11631/64	Belgian francs	137.50/60
	137.50/60	French francs	5.7150/200
	5.7150/200	Italian lire	6.0225/75
	6.0225/75	Japanese yen	5.9325/75
	5.9325/75	Swedish crowns	387.50/388.25
One ounce of gold	387.50/388.25	Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
		U.S. dollars	

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Tender documents are available by application in writing to IDECO P.O. Box 46 — Irbid accompanied by a cheque for a value of J.D. 20. This amount is not refundable.

Tender documents are to be submitted to IDECO office in Irbid by noon Thursday 1200 hours (local time) on 18/10/1990.

Fixed price contracts are required and tender must be accompanied by a bid bond as specified in the document, valid for four months.

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TODAY AT

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420
Dured Lahham
Madeline Tabar
In
1-KAFROUN
3:30, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45 P.M.
2-SENIOR WEEK
5:15, p.m.

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155
Indiana Jones
in
TEMPLE OF DOOM
Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144
Samir Ghanem, Ahmad Bdeir
In
KILL MY WIFE WITH THANKS
(Arabic)
Performances: 3:45, 6:45, 9:15

Cinema **NIJOUN** Tel: 675571
Samir Ghanem, Ahmad Bdeir
In
KILL MY WIFE WITH THANKS
(Arabic)
Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 p.m.
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238
Izzat Al Alaili
Yahya Al Fakhrani
In
Execution of a Judge
Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Controversy threatens Cambodia Supreme Council with break up

BANGKOK (R) — The first joint council of rival Cambodian factions threatened to break up in disarray Tuesday as the Phnom Penh government refused to accept a stand-in for guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

The council's Thai hosts and Japanese diplomats shuttled between delegates' rooms at the plush oriental hotel trying to salvage the second meeting of the council.

Ranariddh, the son of former monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk, said in a statement Tuesday he would leave for Paris and delegate a deputy for the second day of talks.

A statement issued by the prince said he had delegated his position on the 12-man council to Art Sarik, a move the Hun Sen government said was unacceptable.

The council representing the Phnom Penh government and a guerrilla coalition comprising the

Khmer Rouge, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and Sihanouk's faction held its first session Monday but reported no progress towards ending 11 years of civil war in Cambodia.

Aides to Ranariddh said he wanted to accompany his two sons Sihanouk and Chakravudh to university in France.

"He has to go. He has postponed it twice already," one said.

A senior Phnom Penh government official said members of the Supreme National Council could not be replaced.

The council, agreed last week during talks in Jakarta as the first step to oversee a U.N.-brokered peace settlement, convened Mon-

day but made no progress on two major issues — election of a chairman or a delegation to the U.N. General Assembly.

The main bone of contention between the government installed by Vietnam in 1979 and the guerrilla alliance is whether Prince Sihanouk, titled head of the coalition, should be chairman occupy one of its six seats on the council or be an additional 13th member.

The two sides vary in their interpretation of their Jakarta communiqué, signed a week ago, which said the SNC "could elect a chairman ... which would in such case be the 13th member of the SNC".

Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan, hosting a dinner for leaders of the four factions late Monday, said he was confident they could agree on the two main issues.

"After talking to all of them, they said that at last they would

agree on two issues, first on the chairmanship of the SNC and secondly the appointing of a delegation to the United Nations," he told reporters after the dinner.

Diplomats and non-Communist officials said the Cambodian factions, cajoled by their super-power backers into accepting the U.N. pact, were still under international pressure to make concessions.

China, which arms the Khmer Rouge, the most powerful guerrilla faction, and the Soviet Union, which backs Phnom Penh, linked arms last week with other permanent U.N. Security Council members the United States, France and Britain to pressure the two sides to accept their peace plan.

"The factions have very little room to manoeuvre," said one diplomat. "We are small bamboo shoots compared to the big rocks (of the superpowers)," said a Khmer Rouge official.

North, South Korea fail to agree on U.N. seat

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea and South Korea refused to budge Tuesday from opposing positions on Korean entry into the United Nations. The two sides met face to face for the first time since historic talks earlier this month.

North Korea proposed the two Koreas apply for joint U.N. membership and take turns sharing one revolving seat under the country name of "Korea," reports said.

South Korea said a single entry for North Korea and South Korea is impractical until mail, travel and people exchanges are possible and the divided peninsula is united, reports said.

Talks between cabinet level ministers from the two sides at the dordor village of Panmunjom lasted almost two hours and were relaxed, according to Korean pool reports. The foreign press was restricted to a photographer and television crew.

The two sides agreed to meet again, but no date was set.

Choe U. Jin, a North Korean ambassador, represented the Communist side and Lim Dong-Won, a career diplomat, represented the South. Both were delegates to the talks between the two countries' premiers Sept. 4-7, and their participation is interpreted as showing the importance both sides attach to U.N. discussions.

South Korea has said it hopes to apply for United Nations membership this year, a move North Korea strongly opposes.

Tuesday's meeting was the first follow-up to the prime ministers talks, the highest level contact ever held between the Koreans. It coincides with the opening of the 45th annual U.N. General Assembly in New York.

The issue of U.N. membership was a stumbling block during the prime ministers talks and the tone of further discussions could affect the second meeting of prime ministers scheduled for mid-October in North Korea.

Lim said there are 84 nations with whom both North Korea and South Korea have relations. He said entry of both countries into the U.N. simultaneously would be good for unification and lead to more dialogue.

"Through 45 years of partition, North and South Korea have had no agreement on minor matters such as postal exchange and travel," he said. "It's not realistic that the sides could consult on a right to speak on the floor of the United Nations."

The Seoul government maintains that each Korea should apply for U.N. membership separately until the peninsula is united. North Korea says separate U.N. seats would perpetuate the division of the peninsula.

Tamil fire kills two in battle around Jaffna Fort

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Tamil rebels pounded Jaffna Fort with home-made mortars, rockets and machine guns Monday night, killing two policemen and wounding three soldiers, military officials said Tuesday.

The military said army sharpshooters picked off 27 rebels, known as the Tamil Tigers, in surrounding bombed-out buildings and underground bunkers, as battles continued around the 17th-century fortress.

Authorities reported killing 11 rebels in fighting elsewhere in the country.

Earlier Monday, the military evacuated the 200-man garrison which had defended the fort during a three-month rebel siege, airlifting them to medical facilities in outposts in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

A Defence Ministry communiqué said 28 men have been killed and more than 140 injured since Aug. 22 when a major operation was launched to relieve the fort.

The military said it has been consolidating positions and pushing out of the star-shaped fortress towards Jaffna town, across

a few hundred barren metres of no-man's land.

The rebels have denied the government broke the siege, claiming two attempts to land reinforcements were beaten back.

The Dutch colonial fortress is the only government stronghold in the rebel-held town, which is 300 kilometres northeast of Colombo. It is the political and military base of the rebels, who seek a Tamil homeland in the north and east of Sri Lanka independent of the Sinhalese dominated government.

In the eastern Ampara district, police commandos shot dead four rebels and discovered a field hospital and a fleet of vehicles near the Kanjiamadichiaru village, north of Ampara town.

In northeastern Trincomalee, troops also killed seven rebels in a clash at a rebel camp near the Sri Lankan naval dockyard. The camp of 14 huts had underground bunkers and ammunition dumps, the officials said.

At least 14,000 people have died since the insurrection broke out in 1983.

Burmese security forces disperse demonstrators

BANGKOK (AP) — Burmese security forces fired tear gas to disperse students and other demonstrators who hurled rocks at them in a high school compound, Burma's state radio reported.

Three security personnel were injured by rocks during the clash Monday in Mandalay, the broadcast said. It said several demonstrators were detained. Mandalay is the country's second-largest city after Rangoon, the capital.

A transcript of the broadcast Monday was seen in Bangkok Tuesday. Accounts from Western diplomats in Rangoon suggest that the state radio often downplays the seriousness of demonstrations and the extent of injuries to protesters.

The clash occurred on the eve of the anniversary of the military government's brutal takeover.

On Sept. 18, 1988, army chief Gen. Saw Maung overthrew civilian President Maung Maung and soldiers killed hundreds of unarmed demonstrators in crushing a nationwide uprising for democracy.

Saw Maung in May allowed the country's first free elections in three decades but has not permitted the victorious National League for Democracy to form a new government. Instead, he has imprisoned the party's leaders as well as students and other party supporters.

Mandalay was a centre of the 1988 uprising. The state radio said Monday's clash began when students from a high school unfurled a flag, chanted slogans, made threats, and called on students in classrooms to join them, the broadcast said.

Thatcher expresses U.K. 'shame' at Munich pact

PRAGUE (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the first British leader to visit Czechoslovakia, Tuesday expressed Britain's shame at the September 1938 Munich Agreement under which vast areas of the country were ceded to Nazi Germany.

Thatcher's visit, twinned with one by French President Francois Mitterrand last week, was timed to help bury painful memories of the two countries' role in the appeasement of Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler which allowed Czechoslovakia to be dismembered.

"We failed you in 1938 when a disastrous policy of appeasement allowed Hitler to extinguish your independence," she said in a speech to the Czechoslovak parliament.

Thatcher said British wartime leader Winston Churchill was quick to repudiate the Munich Agreement struck by his predecessor, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain.

"But we still remember it with shame," she added.

Mitterrand last week also said France had abandoned Czechoslovakia "in its hour of need."

Parliamentary Chairman Alexander Dubcek, whose abortive reforms of 1968 were crushed by a Soviet-led invasion, told Thatcher in a welcoming address: "The first visit by a prime minister of your country will put the final full stop behind the Munich Agreement."

Thatcher, who last month called for a European "Magna Carta" to guarantee fundamental liberties across the continent,

presented the National Assembly with a facsimile of the original Magna Carta, the 1215 charter of basic freedoms which is one of Britain's historic milestones.

The British leader said the 12-nation European Community should hold out the prospect of full membership to the newly-liberated countries of Eastern Europe once they had completed the transformation from Communism to democracy.

"If we can create a great area of democracy stretching from the west coast of the United States right across to the Soviet Far East, that would give us the best guarantee of all for security — because democracies don't go to war with each other," she declared.

But Thatcher repeated her familiar opposition to the granting of expanded Community-wide powers to the Brussels-based EC commission, whose president, Jacques Delors, is due in Prague later this week.

"Let us preserve our diversity," Thatcher said in a 40-minute address punctuated by applause, "it is what gives life its colour, its originality and its meaning."

She added: "Let us be united, not by building new bureaucratic empires, but by our attachment to democracy and the rule of law, by our desire to preserve Europe's heritage, by our resolve never again to see Europe sundered in two hostile camps."

Thatcher, who arrived in Prague Sunday, later flew to the Slovak capital of Bratislava before going on to Budapest.

Amnesty accuses Colombo of fuelling human rights abuses

LONDON (R) — Amnesty International said Wednesday thousands of Sri Lankan civilians had disappeared or been killed by security forces in the past three years and accused the government of encouraging abuses.

The government has fuelled this violence over the years by handing the security forces extraordinary powers and in effect sending the message that those powers could be abused," a report by the London-based human rights organisation said.

Amnesty called on the Sri Lankan government to "act now to halt the continuing violations".

The report, entitled "Sri Lanka: Extrajudicial Executions, 'disappearances' and torture, 1987-1990," said thousands of people had disappeared or been killed by security forces in the south, where the government is fighting the left-wing Sinhalese People's Liberation Front (JVP).

In the northeast, hundreds more had been killed in what Amnesty said was the latest wave of repression since renewed heavy fighting in June between troops and rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Armitage: Days of U.S. bases in Philippines coming to an end

MANILA (AP) — U.S. and Philippine officials opened talks Tuesday on the future of U.S. military bases, and the chief American negotiator said the days of a large U.S. military presence here "are coming to an end."

"What remains for us to determine is the rate at which this presence will be reduced and the nature of the relationship our two governments wish to pursue," chief U.S. negotiator Richard Armitage told the opening session.

U.S. and Philippine panels resumed talks that began last May on the future of Clark Air Base, the Subic Bay Naval Base and four smaller installations.

The lease on the bases expires in September 1991, and President Corason Aquino says it is time to discuss the "orderly withdrawal" of the 40,000 American troops, Defence Department civilians and military dependents stationed here.

"It is clear to me that the days of a very large presence of U.S. sailors and airmen in the Philippines are coming to an end," Armitage said in his opening re-

marks.

Armitage indicated, however, that hard bargaining may lie ahead to determine the length and speed of a phaseout.

"In the here and now of people trying to earn a living and countries trying to adjust to a changing world, the differences between, for instance, 12 months and 12 years, are monumental," he said.

Armitage said the United States hoped for an agreement which would live time for the U.S. military, Filipino base workers and other South East Asian nations to adjust to the American departure.

In his opening statement, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, the chief Philippine negotiator, noted the half century of American colonial rule here.

"The U.S. delegation, we know, is here to help us correct this course," he said. "We can make that correction by reviewing the total environment of our relationship."

But opposition to the bases has been growing among Filipinos who consider them an infringement on national sovereignty.

On Monday, police clashed with hundreds of demonstrators who demanded that the Americans go home. At least 17 people were arrested and seven people were injured in two anti-bases rallies outside the U.S. embassy.

On the eve of the talks, Mrs. Aquino said in a nationally televised address that the negotiations will redefine relations between the United States and this former American colony.

"It is now necessary for our government to work with the United States for arrangements regarding the orderly withdrawal of their forces from our country," she said.

It was the first time Mrs. Aquino has called publicly for the gradual closing of the bases. Last Friday, the Washington Post reported that U.S. negotiators will offer to close the bases over 10 years.

Manila newspapers reported that last month that the Philippines will propose that Clark Air Base and other facilities be closed

S.Africa ready to sign nuclear accord

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa said Tuesday it was prepared to sign an international treaty banning the spread of nuclear weapons if other southern African nations also committed themselves to the pact.

Foreign Minister P. W. Botha said South Africa was ready to sign the 1970 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty following talks last year with three nuclear powers, the United States, the Soviet Union and Britain.

"The South African government is prepared to accede to the treaty in the context of an equal commitment by the other states in the southern African region," he said in a statement.

Several of South Africa's neighbours have signed the treaty, which is sponsored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). But some of its harshest critics, including Zimbabwe, Zambia, Angola and Namibia, have not signed.

Botha said Pretoria had discussed the possibility of establishing a nuclear-free zone in southern Africa with a number of African governments.

Pretoria has until now refused to submit its nuclear facilities to international inspection or to sign the treaty.

Winnie Mandela to be charged with kidnapping

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A senior South African prosecutor said Tuesday the state was charging Winnie Mandela, wife of anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela, with four counts of kidnapping and four of assault.

The Johannesburg district attorney-general's office said in a statement the charges arose from incidents at her Soweto home which led to the murder of teenage black activist Stompie Seipei.

"I have now had an opportunity to study the matter and after careful consideration... I have decided to prosecute Mrs. Mandela on four counts of kidnapping and four counts of assault with intent to commit grievous bodily harm," said Attorney-General Klaas van Lierse.

The attorney-general said that Mrs. Mandela would appear at the Supreme Court in Johannesburg on Sept. 24 together with seven others who have already been charged.

At that hearing it was intended to set an early trial date.

The statement said it had been claimed Mrs. Mandela had been unjustly victimised by being refused an opportunity to defend herself against accusations arising from Seipei's murder.

"My decision to prosecute Mrs. Mandela was taken not in response to these various claims and statements, whether they are correct or not, but because of my



Winnie Mandela

understanding of the facts, the law of the land and my duty as attorney-general," he said.

Jerry Richardson, one of Mrs. Mandela's bodyguards and coach of the so-called Mandela United Football Club, was sentenced to death last month for Seipei's murder after a trial in which allegations of Mrs. Mandela's involvement were made.

The court heard that Seipei was abducted from a church hostel and held hostage at Mrs. Mandela's house where he was beaten and whipped.

The killing occurred in January 1989 when Nelson Mandela was beginning the last year of 27 years imprisonment for plotting against white rule. He was freed last February by President F.W. de Klerk to ease negotiations on creating a democratic South Africa in which blacks would have political rights.

Malta minister to head U.N. Assembly

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Maltese Foreign Minister Guido de Marco, a human rights advocate with a reputation as a grand orator, was expected to assume the presidency of the 45th U.N. General Assembly Tuesday.

The changing of the guard comes as the crisis in the Gulf is bringing the United Nations' role sharply into focus.

De Marco told reporters last week in Malta that he "looks upon the presidency with a sense of responsibility, especially because the present international situation makes the forthcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly especially important."

The presidency of the 159-member General Assembly has few inherent powers beyond presiding over deliberations. The president can, however, use his powers to persuasion to help resolve deadlocks and diplomatic wrangles.

De Marco, who is also a deputy prime minister and justice minister, is a colourful and respected

Maltese politician and 25-year veteran of the Nationalist Party.

Fluent in Maltese, Italian and English, De Marco has in past years roused Maltese audiences with his piercing voice in speeches every Sept. 21, the nation's Independence Day. This year he will be supervising the Assembly on that date.

Born in the capital, Valletta, in 1931, De Marco has practised law in Malta's Superior Court since 1956, and has been a professor of criminal law at the University of Malta since 1964.

He studied Italian as an undergraduate, and has long shown an interest in that culture.

In 1966, De Marco won his first campaign for Malta's Nationalist Party, taking the parliamentary seat for his hometown of Hamrun and the surrounding area.

From 1972-77, De Marco served as party secretary general. He then was elected deputy leader of the Nationalist Party, a post he still holds.

In 1967, Maltese voters elected De Marco to the parliamentary

assembly of the Council of Europe, a post he retained for almost 20 years.

In Malta's parliament, De Marco has been a leading advocate of human rights, serving as his party's spokesman on the issue.

As justice minister, De Marco introduced in parliament several bills that incorporated international rights standards into Maltese law, including accord with the European Convention on Human Rights.

De Marco was put forward as Malta's candidate for the U.N. position as the result of a classic piece of political intrigue, for which Malta is famous.

Earlier this year, the West European and other national groups at the United Nations decided Malta would be the nation providing a president for the assembly.

Each year, a different regional group chooses the assembly president. Last year, the African group selected the Nigerian ambassador, Maj-Gen. Joseph Garba, whose term ends Tuesday.

Mock bomb delays U.S. chemical weapons removal in West Germany

BONN (R) — Two night trains removing U.S. chemical weapons from West Germany were delayed by discovery of a mock bomb on the track and by technical problems, officials said Tuesday.

The fake bomb was found near Kassel train station Monday night, forcing an unscheduled stop to let experts examine it. West German and American spokesmen for the operation said.

A letter was found next to the harmless device, saying "We'll make noises for the Americans tomorrow," an official at the German-American Press Centre in Norderham on the North Sea said.

The letter was signed by an unknown group calling itself "Action National-Social Front," the official said.

It was the first incident of the kind since removal by rail of 100,000 U.S. poison gas shells from West Germany began last Wednesday.

The West German trains left Miesau in the south-west Monday but soon ran into snags when both locomotives had to be replaced because of technical problems, the officials said.

The trains, the sixth of seven planned rail shipments of U.S. chemical arms, arrived late at Norderham on the North Sea

Tuesday morning.

Officials said the final rail transport would begin as planned later Tuesday to complete the removal.

The poison gas shells were being transported in leak-proof steel containers under maximum security through densely populated parts of the country to the North Sea.

In Norderham the chemical arms were being loaded onto two U.S. cargo ships which will take them Thursday to an island in the Pacific Ocean for destruction.

Two Greenpeace ships were cruising outside Norderham port to protest the planned destruction, concerned about its effects on the environment.

COLUMN

Cosby knocks Jackson out of 1st place

NEW YORK (AP) — Bill Cosby knocked Michael Jackson out of first place on Forbes' list of the world's richest entertainers with two-year earnings projected at \$115 million. Jackson, who had been No. 1 for two years straight, hasn't put out an album or gone on tour this year but still made more money than any other singer or musical group — a two-year estimate of \$100 million. He was ranked No. 2. Cosby, star of a TV comedy series, made \$60 million last year, and Forbes projected he would earn \$35 million this year. The Rolling Stones — with \$88 million — rose to third place from eighth last year thanks largely to a big concert tour. Movie producer-director Steven Spielberg, whose *Anacondra* was a box-office success this summer, made \$87 million. He slipped fourth place, from second. New entrants on the list were the teeny-bopper sensation New Kids on the Block in fifth place. Forbes said the group would make \$78 million in the two years. \$61 million of it in 1990. Forbes said the estimated gross incomes were based on talks with industry executives, lawyers, agents and managers.

American author wins award

FLORENCE (AP) — American author Toni Morrison's novel *Beloved*, depicting the struggles faced by three generations of black women, has won the Chiambretti Antico Fattore International Literary Prize. Award sponsors praised the novel for "giving a voice to the experience of suffering, survival and life of the black population of America and in giving a voice to the feminine experience within the black population." Morrison, who accepted the award Sunday during ceremonies at Florence's Palazzo Vecchio, described the book as "the story of the complex and intense love of a woman for her children." It is set before, during and after the civil war.

Hotel workers get into hot water over theft charge

JAKARTA (R) — Two Indonesian hotel workers suspected of stealing had to dip their hands in boiling water to prove their innocence, the daily Merdeka has reported. It said Adja and Suberi employed by a Jakarta hotel were put through the ordeal after hotel security sought the help of a dukun (witch doctor), over a 200,000 rupiah (\$110) theft. The dukun told four employees they would feel no pain if they were innocent. The test was abandoned when the first two screamed. Police were called in to investigate the theft and the torture-by-scalding-water method employed by the unofficial investigator.

Woody Woodpecker honoured

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Woody Woodpecker, the perky cartoon character known for his staccato laugh and shenanigans, was honoured on his 50th birthday with a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame. About 150 schoolchildren sang Happy Birthday at the ceremony. "Woody is 50 and I'm 90," said Walter Lantz, who created Woody in 1940 and has his own star on the Walk of Fame. "Pretty good for a couple of old birds, isn't it?" The middle-aged, red-and-blue bird has appeared in 200 cartoons in 35 languages and 17 million comic books. Lantz said he created Woody after a bird destroyed the roof of his mountain cabin. "Every morning this Woodpecker would be going at my roof. ... I finally had to replace the entire roof, but he's repaid me over the years," he said.

Norwegian swims 50 hours in Arctic fjord

OSLO (AP) — A Norwegian soldier swam for 50 hours in an Arctic fjord this past weekend in a bet with a buddy who rode a bicycle for 78 hours straight, a report said Monday. Per Christen Solberg, a 24-year-old marine, swam 60 kilometres in north Norway's Ramsund Fjord, completing the non-stop marathon, reported Oslo's *Vergens* newspaper. He wore a wetsuit and scuba diving flippers. The other soldier, who was not named in the report, had fulfilled their gentlemen's bet by bicycling more than 1,000 kilometres from Ramsund to Oslo in 78 hours.